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GEPLACEA REPORTS DECLINE IN SUGAR EXPORTS

FL292128 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 29 CANA -- Sugar export earnings of Latin American and Caribbean countries have fallen to slightly over one-fourth what they were five years ago -- from U.S. 1.3 billion dollars to 375 billion dollars, according to the October edition of GEPLACEA BULLETIN.

The report said the volume of sugar exports had fallen from an average of 3.3 million short tons five years ago to 1.1 million this year.

Geplacea is the Spanish acronym for the group of Latin American and Caribbean sugar exporting countries.

Its bulletin said the Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States (OAS) had received a proposal to begin co-ordinated action in view of the crisis facing the Latin American and Caribbean sugar industry.

It added that a document outlining the situation and guidelines for seeking solutions was distributed among delegations of the member countries of OAS participating in the regular session of the council.

A key issue in the analysis was the effects of the provisions pertaining to sugar in the United States Farm Act 1986 on the economies of Latin American and Caribbean countries. The secretary general of the OAS, Joao Clemente Baena Soares, said recently that U.S. sugar legislation has had severe effects on the foreign trade and the economies of member countries of the organisation.

One third of sugar exports from Latin America and the Caribbean are exported to the United States. Thus, it is not unusual, said Baena Soares, that exporting countries are deeply concerned over the drastic drop in their sugar exports to this country.

AGRICULTURAL BOARD APPROVES 5-YEAR PLAN

PA290252 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Ministers and officials of 29 countries who attended the third meeting of the Inter-American Agriculture Board [Junta Interamericana de Agricultura] approved in Mexico a 5-year plan -- to be implemented next year -- to foster agricultural and livestock development on the American continent. The program aims at helping the area countries increase the efficiency of their marketing procedures and achieve a more effective participation in the trade of agricultural and livestock products both in the region and the world. Among other goals, the plan aims at solving the problems of the poverty-stricken rural population as well as those caused by plagues that lower agricultural and livestock production.

VENEZUELAN DIPLOMAT PREVIEWS CONTADORA MEETING

FL300230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0042 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Oct, (NOTIMEX) -- Pedro Sorensen Mosqueda, Venezuelan Foreign Ministry representative to the Contadora and Support Groups technical meeting, has said: we will continue to seek formulas of understanding aimed at solving the Central American conflict.

Interviewed upon his arrival in Mexico City, Sorensen, director general of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry's International Policies Department, underscored that they will continue to work toward finding a peaceful solution to the problems in Central America.

Sorensen refused to comment on the possible break of diplomatic relations between the United States and Nicaragua and indicated that he could not provide more information inasmuch as the meeting will only discuss technical matters.

The diplomat noted that the talks held during the meeting are expected to be extremely important in continuing the path to which Venezuela is committed. The Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) and the Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay) will meet in Mexico City during the next 2 days, mainly to find peaceful solutions for Central America.

BOLIVIA, ARGENTINA, PERU TO DISCUSS OCEAN ROUTES

PY242009 Paris AFP in Spanish 1650 GMT 24 Oct 86

[Text] La Paz, 24 Oct (AFP) -- Alfredo Olmedo, high-ranking Bolivian Foreign Ministry official, said here today that the Argentine, Bolivian, and Peruvian foreign ministers will meet in November in Lima to reach an agreement on transportation routes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

He added that Foreign Ministers Dante Caputo, Guillermo Bedregal, and Allan Wagner will meet before 5 November in an effort to promote integration through transportation routes or corridors between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Argentina and Peru will establish a link through Bolivia. This shows that our country plays a key role in making international contacts, Olmedo concluded.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE REJECTS UK DECLARATION

PY300107 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0010 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- At 2020 local time [320 GMT] tonight, the Argentine Government released the following communique:

In a declaration issued today, 29 October, the British Government has arrogated unto itself the right to control the exploitation of fishing resources in an area of up to 200 nautical miles around the Malvinas Islands and to exercise jurisdiction over the continental shelf of these islands.

This new British pretension is legally and politically unacceptable because it affects maritime territory over which the Argentine nation exercises the rights of sovereignty and jurisdiction.

The need to preserve the fishing resources that the British declaration calls for is actually a pretext that seeks to justify the implementation of the aforementioned measure. This is made quite obvious by the pretension of taking over not only the waters and their resources but also the seabed and subsoil.

Argentina has repeatedly rejected the alleged "protection zone" of 150 miles around the Malvinas the United Kingdom unilaterally created in 1982. This zone has been the cause of repeated incidents caused by British military units and denounced every time by the Argentine Government to the international community.

The implementation of this new British initiative is made even more serious by the fact that Great Britain unilaterally arrogates unto itself the exercise of rights over an even larger area overlapping peacefully accepted Argentine rights and jurisdictions.

By instilling this serious conflictive factor into the current dispute over the sovereignty of the islands the United Kingdom has flagrantly violated the resolutions of the UN General Assembly. These resolutions, while urging a solution to the dispute, recommend that the parties refrain from making unilateral changes to the status quo. The British decision will be the cause of very serious tensions and conflicts of yet unfathomable consequences, which could even affect the interests of other states.

Unfortunately, this decision is still another demonstration of the lack of Great Britain's will to negotiate and its obvious intention of continuing to hamper the steps towards the solution of the sovereignty dispute over the islands, which has received repeated support from the international community.

Furhtermore, the British declaration is actually a challenge hurled at this community and at the United Nations, whose General Assembly on 27 October approved a resolution declaring the South Atlantic a zone of peace and cooperation. Paradoxically enough, the United Kingdom voted for this resolution.

There is no justification for the behavior of a state that only a few hours after the approval of this resolution is implementing measures that worsen tensions and conflicts in the area and will cause even worse ones that may become a true threat to the maintenance of international peace and security.

By seeking to add new areas and resources to its colonial domain, the British Government is once again paying no heed to the will of the international community, which wants to totally eradicate colonialism from the world.

Argentina's constitutional government has been particularly careful not to implement any measure capable of affecting the resumption of negotiations, as has been recommended by the United Nations. On the contrary, it has repeatedly voiced its willingness to negotiate with the United Kingdom, with an open agenda and including the dispute over sovereignty, so as to come up with a solution to all the problems that keep the two countries apart and that are basically the result of the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas, South Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands.

Without implying any change in this attitude, the Argentine Government will defend [hara valer] its legitimate rights both in the [exclusion] zone and in the appropriate international forums and will not accept the arbitrary pretension of the United Kingdom to exercise rights that belong to Argentina and to take away from Argentina the areas and resources that belong to it.

We are certain that Argentina's position will be duly understood and supported by the international community as a whole.

Protests UK Decision at UN

PY292326 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2256 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez tonight confirmed that Argentina has submitted a protest note to the United Nations over Great Britain's unilateral decision to establish an economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands. Lopez said at the end of the cabinet meeting held at the Olivos presidential residence this afternoon that the protest note submitted to the United Nations is a reaction of the Argentine Government, which feels that its sovereignty has been violated.

Lopez talked to journalists at the end of the cabinet meeting presided over by chief executive Raul Alfonsin. The meeting was held at the Olivos residence and the chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces participated in it. Meanwhile, an official source, asked about the presence of military commanders at the meeting, explained that the measures necessary to defend national assets will be taken.

Ministry Submits Secret Report

PY292139 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- Great Britain "may use its Armed Forces" inside the extended economic preservation zone, according to a secret working document in the hands of President Raul Alfonsin. The document also says the new exclusion zone announced by Margaret Thatcher's government will come into force as of 1 February 1987.

The report delivered to Alfonsin was drawn up by the Argentine Foreign Ministry. It is based on a report British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Howe delivered to Parliament today. In his report, Howe said his country "will use civilian ships and airplanes to guarantee security in the zone," but he warned that "the Armed Forces may be used under the appropriate circumstances."

In another part of his speech, Howe said the measure was adopted as a reply to the Argentine attitude, which he believes "has launched itself into conducting aggressive patrols beyond 200 miles (of the exclusion zone) and within the 2,000 miles that separate the islands from the continent."

Another thing that influenced the British Government to adopt this measure was its "great concern" over "the rapidly increasing amount of fishing" in the zone around the Malvinas Islands, Howe said.

He also said Great Britain believes "the Argentine attitude shows great carelessness regarding the need to preserve the South Atlantic."

The report drawn up for President Alfonsin also states that a Labor Party spokesman for foreign affairs has accused Howe of "making negotiations with Argentina more difficult," adding that the new measure "will entangle the British Government even more in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands affair."

UK Justifies Decision

PY292114 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1927 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- [passage omitted] According to international news agency reports, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe said in London today that the zone, which will be enforced as of 1 February 1987, will be closed to all non-British ships and will be watched by civilian patrols operating from the Malvinas Islands. [passage omitted]

Howe justified the decision on the grounds that it is necessary to stop the accelerated growth of fishing operations in the area. The measure comes as a clear answer to the agreements signed between Argentina and the Soviet and the Bulgarian Governments. The agreements are still to be approved by the Argentine Congress. The British official said the negotiations carried out by Argentina are a direct challenge to British sovereignty over the sea around the islands, adding that Great Britain would have preferred to have reached a general fishing accord with Argentina under the auspices of the United Nations.

Howe stated Argentina has recently displayed aggressive patrols beyond its 200-mile territorial waters and within the military exclusion zone that had so far affected only Argentine ships and planes. However, Argentina has charged that the incidents in the southern zone, during which the British have generally harassed Argentine fishing ships, occurred outside the exclusion zone.

The British have also charged that Argentina has enforced what Great Britain considers excessive patrolling against the foreign fishing ships that are illegally operating within Argentina's 200-mile territorial waters, mentioning an incident in which a Taiwanese ship was sunk.

The accords with the USSR and Bulgaria will allow the Soviet and Bulgarian fleets to operate in Argentina's 200-mile territorial waters with annual catch quotas. The accords also set forth that part of the catch will be sold to Argentina, and that 10 percent of the crew of each ship will be Argentine. This is one of the points that may have irritated the British.

ALFONSIN, MILITARY ASSESS NATIONAL 'DEFENSE'

PY292339 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- A high-ranking government source tonight revealed that "measures related to the defense of national security" were discussed during the meeting that President Raul Alfonsin held with the military commanders, the defense minister, and the foreign minister. Upon being asked about the actual scope of these measures, the source categorically stated that "things like that are not disclosed anywhere in the world."

Even though detailed information about the issues discussed at this meeting is unavailable, judging from the statement of the source it is estimated that the analysis has gone beyond the exclusively political or diplomatic field and into the military field.

Military 'General' Alert

PY300130 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0001 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- A high government source today stated that the government has made the political decision to protest the British decision to expand the exclusive economic zone around the Malvinas peacefully, but without "concessions," and that it is willing "to give an appropriate answer in all fields" if there is an "outburst" [desborde] by Great Britain.

"We are by no means ready to repeat the events of 1982, but we will take a defensive and preventive attitude," said the government source. The source added the attitude includes "a general state of alert" of the three brances of the Armed Forces and the suspension of discharges from the military.

He reiterated the government has no intentions of setting aside peaceful means to try to reverse the situation created by the Conservative British Government. The source added that "there will be no action," although the "deployment of units" to the sourthern area of the country can be expected.

Another measure under evaluation today was the "intensification of patrols" in the South Atlantic "to prevent" any type of "outburst." The source indicated: A calm and long evaluation was made throughout the day and a conclusion was reached that decisions in accordance with the "eventual escalation" of events that could occur in the area near the Malvinas Islands will be adopted.

The source revealed that the British decision was "immediately followed" by the Argentine Government with confidential actions that began late last night when the "first indications" that the Conservative government was going to issue a decision on the Malvinas maritime area became known.

The source also indicated that from 0800 this morning there was a long meeting in the Defense Ministry headed by Minister Horacio Jaunarena with the chiefs of the three Armed Forces and of the Armed Forces Joint Command. After the meeting Minister Jaunarena, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and the military chiefs went to the Olivos residence to meet with President Raul Alfonsin. An important military decision was made during the meeting: The conscripts of the three branches of the Armed Forces who are scheduled for discharge at the end of this year will not be released while the government views the evolution of events.

With regard to the reasons that could have prompted the British decision [words indistinct] it has been learned that the government [words indistinct] fishing agreements with the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia [words indistinct].

With regard to the government attitude, the source insisted on the need to convey a "message of tranquillity" to the population because the government strategy is to take this case to all international forums to resolve the political issue. The source added that the executive branch "will closely follow step by step" the evolution of the problem.

Aviation Units On Alert

PY300239 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0132 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (DYN) -- Naval Aviation units and Air Force fighter bombers were put on alert today, apparently with instructions to patrol the Argentine maritime coast, after the Argentine Government was apprised of Great Britain's decision to extend to 200 miles the unilaterally established "exclusion zone" around the Malvinas Islands.

A high-ranking government official confirmed that these preventive measures have been taken and explained they do not under any circumstances imply "that we are ready to repeat the events of 1982," when the two nations waged a 74-day war after Argentina temporarily recovered the archipelago. "This is merely a preventive and defensive attitude, should any situation arise," the official said tonight. The order putting the units on alert was issued this afternoon after a meeting that President Raul Alfonsin held with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Defenes Minister Horacio Juanarena, and the chiefs of staff of the three Armed Forces as well as the joint chief of staff. [passage omitted]

CAPUTO BRIEFS CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON UK ACTION

PY300335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0207 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo tonight told the Chamber of Deputies that Great Britain's unilateral decision to impose an economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands is an aggression against Argentina and is part of Great Britain's reiterated refusal to peacefully settle the controversy.

Caputo said this decision once again reflects the British refusal to accept the opinion of the international community, which has expressed itself thorugh the United Nations. It is also a typically ambiguous action by the Conservative British Government, which has once again revealed its colonial presence in Argentin'a South Atlantic, under the pretended excluse of preserving fishing resources, he stated.

Caputo recalled that after the 1982 war, Great Britain established a so-called protection zone, extending 150 miles around the Malvinas Islands. The zone was closed to Argentine ships, but not to ships from other countries. Neither did it involve any claim of sovereignty over the resources of the sea or the sea bottom, or over underground resources.

The great difference between the protection zone and the 150-mile zone, called a preservation and administration zone, is that the latter is closed to all foreign ships. Consequently, it involves sovereign rights over the sea. Caputo added that this constitutes a great difference, because if we draw a 200-mile line around the Malvinas, we will see on the southwestern tip of the Altantic how the 200 mile line crosses through Isla de Los Estados and cuts through seas over which our country has had sovereignty.

Caputo said since the United Kingdom knows that international law cannot be applied unilaterally, it suggests that the definite line must be established starting from some sort of border delimitation agreement with Argentina. The consequence of this would be the drawing of a so-called equidistant line, which, although it would not go over the Argentine seas, would certainly mean a significant loss.

The British idea, he added, implies that the establishment of this zone subject to negotiations with Argentina must include the acceptance of the idea of sitting down to discuss an exclusive economic zone, implicitly taking British sovereignty as accepted. Needless to say, such an intention is unacceptable for the Argentine Government, he stated.

The foreign minister said claiming an alleged policy of preservation of fishing resources, the British Government has again usurped Argentine territory and seas. He reaffirmed Argentina believes in the need to negotiate the conflict peacefully and will at this time remain faithful to this priniciple through words and actions, not just in theory.

He stressed that our government will remain faithful to this principle, but the government of the United Kingdom should under no circumstances believe that the [quest for a] peaceful solution means weakness, surrender, and, in sum, indifference in the face of repeated acts of aggression. Our position is rational.

Caputo confirmed that tomorrow the Argentine Foreign Ministry will begin diplomatic actions in various forums, in the United Nations, in the OAS, within the Nonaligned Movement, and in other international forums. Furthermore, it will get in touch with Latin American foreign ministers and those of countries friendly to Argentina to explain the seriousness of this new development that is based on two issues: One that effects national interests through the usurpation of Argentine seas; and one that concerns the international community, namely, that the British decision increases tensions and puts peace in the South Atlantic in jeopardy.

Caputo finished his initial explanation by saying: Firmness and rationality, strength and prudence are the four words that will rule Argentine actions in the face of the decision of the United Kingdom. The next to speak was deputy Jose Bordon (Justicialist Party, Mendoza Province), who is a member of the Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

Deputies React

PY300427 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0410 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Airs, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo tonight said Argentina will answer the British decision with firmness, reason, strength, and prudence, adding that what the British want is to extend the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands. In a speech to the Chamber of Deputies, Caputo reiterated that the Argentine Government will resolve the conflict through negotiations, and this does not represent weakness, selling out the fatherland, or indifference. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Federico Storani, the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, ruled out any petty temptation to obtain electoral benefits from the situation because the Malvinas issue has always been a national cause. Storani stressed that we stuck our finger in where it belonged and twisted it, and he denied that the Argentine Government is carrying out a passive diplomatic policy.

Storani, who received a lengthy applause from the Radical Civic Union and minority blocs, explained that Argentina's active diplomacy is based on obtaining resolutions from the United Nations, on denouncing the arms race, and on participating within the Group of Six, the Contadora Support Group, the Consensus of Cartagena, and the Nonaligned Movement.

He stated Argentina's foreign policy is anti-imperialist, anti-supremacist, independent, and nonaligned, and it seeks to actively defend sovereign rights. He indicated that our ships will have to patrol the zone in keeping with the laws in force, and we shall sink as many fishing boats as necessary to maintain our sovereignty, but we shall not react to provocations. Further on in his speech to the Chamber of Deputies Storani said that Argentina's diplomatic policy is directed at Latin American and urged greater integration with Brazil to defend common assests.

Progressive Deomcratic Party Deputy Alberto Natale moved for approval of a resolution repudiating the overt act of aggression that Great Britain has perpetrated against Argentina. Natale suggested the resolution should contain a ratification of Argentina's full and absolute sovereign rights over the Malvinas, in view of the serious violation of these rights that has taken place.
Democratic Centrist Union Deputy Maria Julia Alsogaray seconded this motion and refrained from questioning the foreign minister, stating in matters like this her bloc trusts the initiatives the executive branch may undertake, exercising its constitutional powers.

Deputy Alsogaray was followed by Raul Druetta, a Peronist from Santa Fe Province, Iron-Guard faction, who went into a lengthy and highly nationalistic speech and concluded by asking the government to take concrete measures to harm the economic interests of the United Kingdom.

Roberto Ulloa, a renewal faction Peronist from Salta Province and Carlos Conteras Gomez of the Corrientes Autonomous Movement made short statements repudiating the British decision. They were followed by Oscar Alende, speaker for the Intransigent Party bloc. He expressed concern over the lack of government reacion to repeated British aggressions.

Alende lamented that the bills submitted by Radical Civic Union Deputies Federico Storani and Ricardo Garci proposing in-depth investigations into the causes that led to the Malvinas war and the handling of this conflict by the military regime were not passed.

In connection with Caputo's remarks about the displeasure of the British opposition over the measure implemented by the conservative administration, Alende warned: Let us not delude ourselves, The British social democrats have an equally colonialist mentality. Alende concluded by saying if the government tells us it will go all out to defend our sovereignty, all the political sectors of the country will support it to show England that our time has come.

Storani On UK 'Provocation'

PY300327 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0230 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Commission President Federico Storani, from the Radical Civic Union [UCR] party, today stated Argentina will continue patrolling the southern Atlantic waters to firmly exercise its sovereignty vis-a-vis the UK provocation of establishing an economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

Asked about the possibility that the conflict will worsen, the UCR legislator tonight made the following statement at the national Congress: If common sense prevails, I hope not. Otherwise, Argentina will not relinquish its sovereignty.

Storani insisted on describing the British decision as an act of provocation because it was announced 48 hours after the approval of a UN resolution demanding the demilitarization of the Malvinas Islands. It is a typical imperialist and colonialist aggression, Storani stated. He then stressed that the government of Margaret Thatcher plans to resurrect the Malvinas issue because of the upcoming elections in the United Kingdom. Storani also stated the British decision is related to the fishing agreements Argentina signed with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. Concerning these agreements, Great Britain is seeking to introduce elements to have them changed.

Legislators Censure UK

PY300022 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2251 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Ruling party and opposition deputies have strongly rejected the British decision to declare an economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

Radical Deputy Guillermo Sarquis said the British decision is the result of the fishing agreement Argentina recently signed with the Soviet Union. Deputy Jose Bordon, Peronist, Renewal faction, said the British decision increases the danger of war in the South Atlantic.

Deputy Carlos Auyero of the Christian Democratic Party stated the British decision is an act of international banditry. He added that the Christian Democratic Party will support the measures adopted by the government.

Alvaro Alsogaray of the Independent Democratic Union excused himself from giving an opinion until more detailed information is received. Deputy Cristina Guzman of the Jujuy Popular Movement said: We should be prudent in our statements until more information is received.

Radical Deputy Sarquis said this is the British answer to the political decision of the Argentine Government to establish trade relations with all countries regardless of ideology. Sarquis added that the British banditry in the South Atlantic boycotts peace. After censuring the arrogant attitude of the Margaret Thatcher government, he said Argentina will not slow its struggle in defense of its sovereignty over the islands.

Peronist Deputy Bordon, vice president of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the British decision worsens the tensions and increases the danger of war in the South Atlantic. He added this action should make some Western deomcracies ponder, especially the United States, which should have a clearer position in support of Argentina.

Bordon added that Argentina should respond to the aggression with firmness and recommended that studies of economic reprisals should be made. Bordon also linked the British decision with the fishing agreement signed between Argentina and the Soviet Union. Bordon indicated that the British acted this way because they were not able to get Argentina to fall into the trap of going to a multilateral UN forum like the FAO to discuss the fishing issue.

Urge 'Expropriation' of Assets

PY292130 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2008 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- Peronist Renewal Faction Deputy Jorge Matzkin today stated that considering the British Government's unilateral decision to extend the exclusive economic zone around the Malvinas Islands, the government "should already be thinking about all the British possessions in Argentina," implicitly referring to measures for the expropriation of those possessions.

Matzkin, who is vice president of the Finance Committee, explained that "we should immediately stop paying the services on the foreign debt to British banks, which, unfortunately, we have never stopped paying." Regarding current private trade negotiations between the two countries, the Peronist deputy stated "for the time being we should put that activity on hold, a temporary suspension, due to the unilateral British decision."

Deputy Federico Clerici, of the Democratic Centrist Union, today stated "we will unite around the decisions that the executive branch may adopt, and we are ready to implement any action that Congress may decide to conduct at the national and international levels." Clerici expressed "his surprise" because he said "some progress was achieved very slowly at the diplomatic level on this situation." He said "the first thing that ought to be done is to explain the British attitude before all international organizations." He added "this unilateral British decision will thwart private trade relations between the citizens and companies of the two countries."

SENATORS REPUDIATE UK EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

PY292214 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- Argentine senators from various parties today rejected Great Britain's decision to expand the exclusive economic zone around the Malvinas Islands, and described the measure as an "attitude that befits the piratical inclinations of the British" which will be "received indignantly by all Argentines."

Antonio Napoli, president of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] bloc in the Senate, said that he was "surprised" at the attitude of the British Government. Adolfo Gass, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, was urgently called in by President Raul Alfonsin to participate in an unscheduled cabinet meeting.

Senator Antonio Berhongaray, chairman of the Defense Committee, said the British measure "is yet another aggression aimed at hampering the negotiations on fishing that Argentina has been carrying out with various countries."

When NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS questioned Peronist Senator Jose Humberto Martiarena on the subject, he said Great Britain's attitude constitutes "an aggression worsened by its declaration of exclusive economic zone, and this declaration will be received indignantly by all Argentines."

Justicialist Senator Oraldo Britos voice his "repudiation of an attitude that is in keeping with British piracy." In addition, Liberal Senator for Corrientes Province Luis Leconte criticized the "[word indistinct] of Great Britain that seeks to elude the proposals of Argentina and the United Nations and carries out actions that confirm the seizure of the Malvinas, which has been repudiated by the Argentine people."

Leon Urges National Unity

PY292227 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2050 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- Senator Luis Leon (Radical Civic Union, Chaco Province) today exhorted President Raul Alfonsin "and the Armed Forces to adopt, with the necessary strictness, whatever measures must be adopted" to respond to "the British pretensions of piracy." He also expressed his wish that "all Argentines remain united and support the measures that will have to be adopted."

Leon, referring to the British decision extending the exclusive economic zone around the Malvinas Islands, said this "is a new demonstration of the British colonialist attitude." "This pretension violates international laws," he said, adding that, therefore, "our people and the international community cannot accept it."

Senator Leon told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS "I will not say what must be done, because that must be decided by the government." However, he considered "the first thing to do is lodge a protest before the United Nations." Leon added that "the government, together with the Armed Forces, must adopt the necessary [passage indistinct]" and he urged the people "to remain united and to continue giving their support so as to be able to outline a strategy in the face of this action."

Senate Approves UK Motion

PY292222 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2202 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- The Argentine Senate has approved a motion repudiating the attitude of the British Government. The motion was submitted by Senator Alberto Rodriguez Saa (Justicialist Party, San Juan Province). The senators approved this motion shortly before 1900 local time [2200 GMT].

COMMUNISTS CALL FOR 'POPULAR MOBILIZATION'

PY292305 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2125 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- Communist Party Press Secretary Jorge Berstein has demanded that the Argentine Government give a "clear and categorical answer" to the British, adding "we must take strong and effective measures and, to this effect, we must call for a popular mobiiization and Latin American solidarity."

Berstein reported that People's Front parties this afternoon began contacts in search of an accord. He said that other parties might also be contacted. Berstein added: "It is an extremely serious action and a new aggression by British imperialism. This measure is in line with the war policy begin enforced by the NATO countries and particularly by the U.S. Government."

He stated, "we reiterate our sovereign rights over the Malvinas Islands," and maintained "we have the right to take strong and effective measures and call for a popular mobilization and Latin American solidarity." He said that "the government must give a clear and categorical answer" [words indistinct] that "we will endorse the resolutions that the government might take in this regard."

INTRANSIGENT PARTY SEEKS ECONOMIC REPRISALS

PY292340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- Mariano Lorences, the president of the Intransigent Party, today called on the Argentine Government "to take economic reprisals" against the British capital in the country in the face of the British Government's decision to extend to 200 miles the economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

Lorences also indicated the decision must have been induced by the U.S. Government, because it is possible that "these gentlemen are realizing that we can change the markets of our purchases; that is, buy from those who are buying from us." In this regard Lorences pointed out that "so far the socialist countries led by the Soviet Union buy a great deal from us and we buy absolutely nothing from them, which is the reverse of our trade relations with the United States."

Lorences stated that this measure "contradicts the position Great Britain adopted only recently at the United Nations declaring the South Atlantic a zone of peace. It is an action typical of imperialism, which changes its principles according to its interests." He added: "This measure may be linked to some pressure following Alfonsin's trip to the socialist countries, the fishing agreements, or some possible trade agreements in the future."

Lorences also pointed out that "this should be a new lesson for those who believe that imperialism does not exist or that it is an illusion made up by some sectors of the opposition." He said: "The measures that should be taken in the country should be reprisal measures, but I do not know if the government is ready to take them." Lorences also emphasized "we are the only country at war with Great Britain, and we have not taken over the enemy's property and we have even allowed Shell (the oil company) to continue to sell oil to the British fleet." In conclusion, Lorences noted the example when Argentina declared war against the Axis toward the end of World War II and confiscated the property of "the enemy" in our territory.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES AID GIVEN TO CONTRAS

PA300138 Paris AFP in Spanish 2112 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Quito, 29 Oct (AFP) -- Through a press bulletin issued by the Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Directorate today, Ecuador "categorically denied that the Ecuadoran Government is giving aid to the so-called Nicaraguan 'contras.'"

The bulletin added that "the news on this matter was spread, together with other news on the activities of alleged countries or groups that help the 'contras,' in an AFP dispatch."

This dispatch, datelined Tuesday in Miami and published by an Ecuadoran daily today, reported on remarks on this matter published by THE MIAMI HERALD, citing U.S. government officials. THE MIAMI HERALD said that governments and conservative groups of several Latin American countries are part of a network that supports the contras. It said a former Somozist diplomat involved the Quito government in this alleged aid.

In its bulletin issued today, the Foreign Ministry "reiterated that the Ecuadoran Government respects and enforces the nonintervention principle." "Any news or false information that contradicts this firm Ecuadoran position could very well be part of a sometimes irate campaign of disinformation that is under way against governments that defend human rights and stop the terrorist threat," the Foreign Ministry concluded.

ALFARO LIVES SAYS 'STRUGGLE CONTINUES'

PA300402 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2351 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Quito, 29 Oct (DPA) -- Some 48 hours after the death of rebel leader Arturo Jarrin, who was killed on Monday by the police, the Ecuadoran guerrilla group Alfaro Lives today took over a church "to reassert, with our presence, that our organization has not been annihilated."

The Hamet Vasconez Commando of the subversive organization proclaimed that "the struggle continues" from the San Vicente Church, located in a workers' neighborhood in Guayaquil, which was temporarily taken over by approximately 10 members of Alfaro Lives.

The guerrilla commando also requested the church's intervention to stop "the government's dangerous increase" in human rights violations, particularly concerning arbitrary arrests and investigations using torture.

The subversive action took place 2 days after Arturo Jarrin's death and when all the political sectors were speculating about the imminent disappearance of Alfaro Lives; eighteen of its better known leaders have died and 80 are in prison following a large-scale government offensive "against terrorism and for peace."

"Our organization is not annihilated or about to disappear," it was added by the commando, whose raid caused some surprise. Following the death of Jarrin -- who suffered eight gunshot wounds during an armed clash north of Quito -- it was believed that Alfaro Lives had no leader and might have been annihilated.

DE LA MADRID REVIEWS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

PA291812 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Report by Francisco Fortunio -- passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Fortunio] In the closing ceremony of the Canacintra [National Chamber of Manufacturers] national industrialists meeting, President Miguel de la Madrid said that the administration of the national economy is not out of control and that we have not suffered any economic blows or chaos.

De la Madrid explained that the government had to take strict measures because of the risk of a sudden drop of economic activity and an uncontrolled hyperinflationary process during this year's first few months.

[De la Madrid] "Although we have not been able to prevent completely the negative consequences of the drop in oil prices, we can assert that the administration of our economy is not out of control. Although at low levels, our economy is running within relative normalcy. We have not fallen into economic chaos. We have not suffered blows to our economy. Although inflation is higher than expected, it has not reached the levels observed in other countries."

[Fortunio] The president said that the two major economic problems faced by the Mexican Government are controlling inflation and preventing recession, because these two factors could force the Mexicans' standard of living down.

[De la Madrid] "Simultaneously combing the solution of these two problems is the great dilemma of the current economic policy."

[Fortunio] The president admitted that financing possibilities have been restricted and that nominal interest rates are high. He explained why this is so.

[De la Madrid] "This was largely caused by the restriction of resources in our economy as a result of the impact on oil-prices and the fact that for about 18-20 months the country has not had access to foreign net resources."

[Fortunio] The president pointed out that the current regime will continue promoting greater credit availability for the private sector.

[De la Madrid] "This will largely depend on the success of our efforts to continue reducing the public deficit, the results of handling the foreign debt, and the new financial assistance that we are negotiating."

[Fortunio] The president urged the countries' industrialists to make great efforts to increase and diversify the exportation of manufactured goods and to make them more competitive. The Mexican president said that Mexico will have a law that will protect foreign trade in order to avoid harm from other countries' unfair trade activities. The president addressed industrialists with a frank and calm tone, pointing out that dialogue is the basis of common effort and national effort.

[De la Madrid] "I wish to stress that in Mexico, businessmen and the government can frankly and openly. This agrees with the kind of nation we want, one which is increasingly democratic and made up of free people."

SALES OF TREASURY NOTES, PETROBONDS DECLINE

WA282000 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Oct 86 pp 1, 13

[Excerpt] Despite the continuation of high bank interest rates, capital inflow has been very poor. The floating of treasury certificates (CETES) and petrobonds alone have experienced a decline in real terms exceeding 42.2 percent so far this year as compared to last year, according to a National Confederation of Chambers of Commerce (CONCANACO) analysis based on data of the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico.

With regard to the CETES, the study also states that the decline has exceeded 1.5 trillion pesos, which has forced the government to redeem certificates floated earlier without being able to compensate with new issues. This represents a larger financial burden for the Bank of Mexico, which has had to substantially increase the resources it is channeling to the public sector.

The business organization stresses that, given the atmosphere of uncertainty and the negative prospects prevailing for the nation's economic future, dollarization is continuing to increase, that is, resources are continuing to be transferred into instruments outside the national financial system, instruments denominated in foreign currencies.

Given the situation, Concanago proposes that to counter this trend no measures should be put into effect that impede the unhindered transfer of resources. "Policies that contribute to a climate of confidence and stability in the financial system overall are to be preferred."

The study indicates that the heightened process of declining financial intermediation has resulted in a no-growth situation in the economy; in a growth in jobs that prevent increasing numbers of Mexicans from covering their basic needs; and in a permanently-increasing inflationary spiral, which is expected to reach 90 percent by the end of the year and may exceed 100 percent.

TRADE OFFICIAL ON POSSIBLE RETALIATION TO U.S.

FL291930 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0315 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 28 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Deputy Foreign Trade Secretary Luis Bravo Aguilera has warned that Mexico could apply unilateral measures including import taxes and special permits on U.S. merchandise in response to the U.S. tax placed on Mexican oil.

In a joint news conference held with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Bravo Aguilera said Mexico's participation in GATT causes it to reject such activities as the tax imposed on Mexican oil and GATT members have given [Mexico] their support.

If the Mexican protest does not achieve results on the additional tax placed on Mexican oil in the U.S. market, he said, Mexico could consider additional taxes on U.S. products.

Bravo Aguilera said the only solution for countries such as Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina is to achieve economic integration and reach regional agreements to increase trade and benefit the economic process at the Latin American level.

He said Mexico's protest, presented yesterday at GATT headquarters by Mexican Ambassador Manuel Tello, has been supported by Argentina and Brazil, countries which oppose protectionism and unilateral measures such as the tax on Mexican oil which harms the national economy. [passage omitted]

During the news conference, Sepulveda Amor reported on his recent tour of Argentian and Brazil. He said Mexico would take great measures to join Latin America in an economic block opposing the protectionism of large countries and defending the prices of its manufactured products and raw materials.

The foreign secretary announced the beginning of the tripartite process in search of reciprocal preferential import tariffs instead of the traditional method of negotiating product by product. [passage omitted]

In reference to the gaspipeline, Humberto Soto, National Bank of Foreign Trade official, said the project, which will link an extensive area between Brazil and Argentina, will be constructed with Mexican technology. It will be 1,350 km [in length] and become operational by April 1988 at latest. The pumping station will have an initial volume of 8 million cubic meters a day, he added.

SEPULVEDA CONFERS WITH COSTA RICA'S MADRIGAL

PA282349 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Report by Raul Sanchez Carrillo]

[Text] Contadora's future is unpredictable, and only its member countries and those who create obstacles to the peace efforts attaining their goal are responsible for Contadora's future. The statement was made by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, who added that the peace efforts, also exerted by Mexico and Costa Rica, must continue to the end.

After placing a wreath at the national monument, Madrigal Nieto began his official visit by going to the Foreign Secretariat. Madrigal Nieto and his Mexican counterpart, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, installed the Mixed Mexican-Costa Rican Commission, which will analyze the commercial, cultural, scientific, and social relations between the two countries.

The Costa Rican foreign minister has also scheduled a private visit with Foreign Secretary Sepulveda. Referring to Contadora the foreign minister said:

[Beging Madrigal recording] I think that the activities exerted to mediate, attain peace, or reach a consensus -- meaning the Contadora Group -- are among the most noble. [end recording]

Madrigal Meets De la Madrid

PA291606 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Report by William Cespedes from Mexico]

[Text] The talks between Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, and Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor had positive results. They analyzed bilateral relations between Costa Rica and Mexico as well as the Central American situation, the Contadora process, and efforts to reactivate the Central American Common Market. Mexico has adopted a new attitude toward Costa Rica and seems to be opening the path for joint investments. Mexicans would be prepared to participate in a number of infrastructure projects that would effectively contribute to Costa Rica's economic reactivation. Commenting on the results of the talks, Madrigal said:

[Begin Madrigal recording] The meeting with the Mexican president took place at (?1245). We talked for approximately 45 minutes or maybe a little longer. This has been one of the most cordial meetings I have had. I noted that President De la Madrid has decided -- as he expressed during the talks -- that following this visit, or rather that in the wake of this visit, we could have specific results. He was truly hopeful about the work by the bilateral commissions that are presently meeting in Tlatelolco.

Last night, President De la Madrid expressed his full identification with Costa Rica and our democracy. As a matter of fact, he expressed his views that we may work together and reinforce bilateral matters as much as we can. I would say these were the chief aspects of the talks, which, of course, were very long. However, I discussed things at length with Foreign Secretary Sepulveda. The two work teams, from the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry and the Mexican Foreign Secretariat, met with Foreign Secretary Sepulveda and me. We analyzed all aspects, including the interest that Mexico and other major Latin American nations, such as Brazil and Argentina, have in establishing bilateral treaties for major economic development with the support from these countries. These countries are to provide the full support of their economies to reinforce consortia that would take different forms. [end recording]

Regarding the situation in Central America, Madrigal Nieto talked with Foreign Secretary Sepulveda about the current situation, what can be done to achieve peace, and efforts to reactivate the Contadora Group. However, Madrigal Nieto noted there is little hope for a peaceful solution unless the Sandinist government changes its attitude. This is what he said on the matter:

[Began Madrigal recording] I stressed we look at the Contadora Group with sympathy. I said this because the Mexican foreign secretary reiterated his country is still prepared to make some sort of effort to achieve peace in Central America, or at least to mitigate the violence that all of us feel will begin soon. I replied the situation is so complex that I could not see anything that [words indistinct] could lead to the peace that all of us are seeking and yearning for. I said I had been encouraged by articles and reports that state Mr Alfonso Robelo speaking on behalf of UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Unity], had urged the Nicaraguan Government to negotiate and avoid violence and war. Surely, this is Costa Rica's stance.

However, (?I fear that if Contadora did not) decide to make Nicaragua's words respond to its real conduct, or rather, that Nicaragua's actions adhered to the guidelines and language it uses in the Contadora Group to accomplish [words indistinct] (?the violence) that may ensue.

Also, I wanted to [words indistinct] that was absolutely uncalled for because [words indistinct] that Costa Rica's stance to demand democracy is not opportunistic, whimsical, or imposed by anybody. In fact, democratic life is an absolute reality of Costa Rican history. We have developed in a climate eminently democratic and respectful of human rights from our very beginnings after our independence, and this is a constant element throughout our process of development. [end recording]

These were the main aspects that Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto discussed with President Miguel de la Madrid and Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda Amor. Meanwhile, the commissions continue working. Tomorrow, the work will intensify to ensure final agreements are reached in the afternoon on cooperation in matters regarding education, science, technology, and economics.

Madrigal Meets Press

PA292326 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Report by Raul Sanchez Carrillo]

[Text] Costa Rica will not participate in or allow the use of its territory to attack any country in the Central American region, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said today. He also asserted that Costa Rica remains neutral concerning the conflict in Nicaragua and the conflict between Nicaragua and the United States. He said that the U.S. aid to the contras is a mistake because it creates further obstacles for the peace efforts in the region.

The Costa Rican foreign minister also asserted during a news conference that the Mixed Mexican-Costa Rican Commission has attained positive results concerning education and the exchange of science and technology. He also said that Contadora has great possibilities of attaining its goals, provided that its member countries exert themselves to the utmost to resolve current problems and thus attain peace in the region.

The Costa Rican foreign minister and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda this afternoon will close the mixed commission's meetings, which began yesterday.

BRIEFS

TRADE BALANCE -- The Programming and Budget Secretariat reported yesterday that the country's trade balance for the first 9 months of this year maintains a positive balance of $2.13 billion as a result of the $1.303 million in exports and $855 million in imports for the month of September. It also disclosed that the positive balance for September was $448.3 million, "the highest of the past 8 months." [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Oct 86 p 13 PA]

PRD PRESIDENT 'ANGRY' OVER U.S. ENVOY'S REMARKS

PA291442 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Oct 86 p 1

[By Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] "We do not need the advice of people who do not know Panamanian reality," Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) President Romulo Escobar Bethancourt stated yesterday to LA PRENSA, referring to U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis' remarks to the American Chamber of Commerce about desiring a total democracy in Panama, a democracy in which all Panamanians can believe and participate.

Visibly angry over the U.S. diplomat's statements, Dr Escobar Bethancourt, who has been an opponent of the Reagan administration's policy, said that "we believe we are a country that has reached adulthood," and he argued that "we have held many elections in our country."

Escobar Bethancourt, who was one of the closest men to the late General Omar Torrijos, said that "we do not need anyone to advise us."

"We have an Electoral Tribunal; we have electoral laws; we have government branches; we have a constitution; and we have an established date for the next elections, which will be in 1989," he added.

He concluded by stating that, as representative of one of the best structured parties in the country, he "wants the next elections to be held according to the electoral regulations."

BRIEFS

NEW COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR -- New Costa Rican Ambassador Miguel Yamuni Tabush has presented his credentials to President Eric Arturo Delvalle. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Oct 86 p 40 PA]

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES APPOINTED -- Yesterday, the Panamanian Council of Cabinet appointed two new justices to the Supreme Court. The new justices are Gustavo Escobar Pereira and Albaro Cedeno Barahona, replacing Americo Rivera and Juan Salvador Alvarado Silva, who retired. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Oct 86 p A-1 PA]

CUBAN AMBASSADOR ENDS MISSION -- Miguel Brugueras, Cuban ambassador to Panama, has completed his tour of duty here and is returning to his country, where he will become head of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 29 Oct 86 p A-4 PA]

COSTA RICA

GARRON CITES U.S., NICARAGUA ON CONTRAS' PRESENCE

PA290411 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0240 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] San Jose, 28 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican public security minister said today if either the United States or the Nicaraguan contras wished to occupy Costa Rican territory to attack Nicaragua, "it would be an act of aggression against Costa Rica."

Minister Hernan Garron was confident that neither side will carry out such an action, but he was not so sure Nicaragua might not do it "in a moment of haste" to internationalize the conflict. "In that case," he added, "we would have to resort to the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR), the organization charged with defending a state that is attacked by another. This is especially so in the case of Costa Rica, which does not have an army."

During a news conference in his office today, Garron said U.S. aid to the anti-Sandinists "will intensify the war in Nicaragua and increase Costa Rica's problems." Last Saturday President Ronald Reagan signed an order to deliver $100 million to the contras.

"We are worried about what might happen to us," the security minister admitted, after acknowledging the limitations that exist to face either an eventual armed action or surge of Nicaraguan refugees. "The United States, our friend, knows we regard the aid given to the anti-Sandinists as inconvenient because it might mean choosing the option of war to resolve the Central American crisis," the high-ranking official added. "We believe," he went on, "that the area problems must be resolved through dialogue and the discussion of ideas, until an understanding is reached."

Regarding the possibility the Americans might want to use Costa Rican territory to train the contras, Garron categorically stated the government "will not permit that." "We are not letting the anti-Sandinists use this soil for their military purposes against the Nicaraguan Government, either," the official asserted.

Destabilization Plans Revealed

PA302357 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2224 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] San Jose, 29 Oct (DPA) -- The Costa Rican Government today revealed a sabotage plan to destabilize the country, and Public Security Minister Hernan Garron said "it would possibly be carried out by some Costa Ricans who have been trained in terrorist schools in Nicaragua." Garron pointed out: "There have also been threats from the same group against Panamanian Embassy officials in Costa Rica."

"We are in a difficult situation; we are the targets of extremist groups that want to destroy Costa Rica's democracy," the minister said.

Likewise, the Nicaraguan Embassy issued a public declaration and stated: "We reject the statements which want to involve the Nicaraguan Government in alleged acts of destabilization against Costa Rica."

The declaration adds: "Nicaragua reasserts once more its firm and unbreakable decision to continue exerting itself to the utmost to attain an atmosphere of confidence and respect between Costa Rica and Nicaragua."

The Costa Rican Government has adopted some precautionary measures; it has tripled the security measures throughout the country's strategic areas.

Possible Sabotage To System

PA291530 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Minister of Public Security Hernan Garron has said his ministry had received a series of reports on possible sabotage plans against the country's electrical system and this information was passed on to the Costa Rican Electricity Institute. Garron said this is part of intensified conflicts during the last few days between the contras and the Sandinists.

Garron said he did not know which side to blame for these criminal attacks, but the situation regarding these threats was reported to the Costa Rican Electricity Institute so the proper precautions could be taken at pylons and electrical plants located in different parts of the country. Garron added that although it is not known which group could carry out this sabotage, the information received is quite reliable.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- The new ambassadors of Chile, Switzerland, and Ecuador presented their credentials to President Oscar Arias on 14 October. Juan Bautista Alegria of Chile, Johann Bucher of Switzerland, and Ivan Penaherrera of Ecuador agreed on strengthening ties with Costa Rica. [Text] [San Jose RUMBO in Spanish 24-30 Oct 86 p 2 PA]

EL SALVADOR

ACEVEDO REITERATES COUNTRY WILL NOT TRAIN CONTRAS

PA300312 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0052 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 29 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- El Salvador reiterated today its territory will not serve to destabilize Nicaragua nor will it be used to train anti-Sandinist groups. "El Salvador will never be occupied to train Nicaraguan contras, and just as we are respectful of the Nicaraguan Government, we also demand the Sandinists respect us," Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said.

"Nicaragua, with its essential principle of demagoguery, officially intervenes [injerencia oficial] with the Salvadoran guerrillas," the foreign minister added at a news conference. [passage omitted]

At the news conference, the foreign minister introduced diplomat Joaquin Maza Martelli as the new deputy foreign minister. President Jose Napoleon Duarte yesterday appointed Maza Martelli as new deputy foreign minister. The position had been vacant for almost 2 months. [passage omitted]

Maza Martelli, who has a degree in international relations and is a career diplomat, was until yesterday general director of foreign policy and previously served as the Salvadoran ambassador to Panama.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS CALL FOR DIALOGUE WITH CEREZO

PA300209 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2113 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Oct (DPA) -- The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), which is made up of the guerrilla groups in this Central American country, proposed a meeting with representatives of Vinicio Cerezo's government, according to a document distributed in Mexico City today.

Responding to statements made by Cerezo during his recent tour to Spain, France, and the FRG, where he said he was willing to hold talks, the guerrillas proposed either the Spanish or the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala City as the site of an eventual meeting. If this proposal were not accepted by the government, the guerrillas would be willing to carry out joint talks with the Mexican Government to hold the meeting in Mexican territory, the URNG General Command said.

The meeting could serve to call for a dialogue "at the highest level" as well as to set the tentative place, agenda, and date to "lay out the foundations for the beginning of a democratic process in Guatemala." Meanwhile, the guerrilla organization said it will remain up in arms.

TRADE RELATIONS REESTABLISHED WITH BELIZE

PA292046 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 29 Oct 86 p 3

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Oct -- Beginning today, the Guatemalan Government will renew its trade relations with Belize, which had been suspended some time ago. The agreement was published today in EL DIARIO OFICIAL.

Julio Santos, public relations secretary of the Presidency, said President Cerezo's policy has been to achieve greater rapprochement with the Belizean people.

Moreover, the trade relations have in fact already existed because they have been carried out through the border with Belize as well as through Amatique Bay with Livingston and Puerto Barrios.

The government spokesman said the official renewal of the trade relations with Belize is very important because of its incorporation into the Caribbean Basin, an area which Guatemala wants to participate.

The public relations secretary of the Presidency added this renewal of trade relations does not mean Guatemala is giving up its claims over that territory. The claims it is making to the British Government are maintained through the Foreign Ministry.

He said this is a matter of a relationship with the Belizean people, with whom our country does not have any dispute.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT DENIES CONTRAS WILL TRAIN IN COUNTRY

PA290416 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 28 Oct 86 p 32

[Text] Press Communique [subhead]

[Text] Press communique: The Foreign Relations Secretariat categorically denies speculations that have circulated in the international media to the effect that the CIA will shift the operations carried out by forces struggling against the Sandinist regime to Islas del Cisne and confirms that Honduran territory will not be used for any type of operations against neighboring countries.

The secretariat reaffirms that the Honduran Government's unalterable position has been expressed before international forums and ratified by the social communications media in Honduras and abroad.

Press Communique [subhead]

The Foreign relations Secretariat hereby denies rumors that have circulated regarding an imminent break in diplomatic relations with the Sandinist regime of Nicaragua.

The Foreign Relations Secretrariat also clarifies that it does not plan to adopt such measures at this time, and trusts that within the delicate balance of bilateral relations, our ties with Nicaragua will not deteriorate because of actions attributable to that government, thus dismissing the possibility of a break in diplomatic relations.

Foreign Relations Ministry.

Deputy Presents Expulsion Decree

PA291730 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Deputy Nicolas Cruz Torres of the Callejist faction [of the National Party of Honduras (PNH)] last night introduced a draft decree through which he requests the expulsion from Honduras, within an unextendable period of 10 days, of the Nicaraguan contras. The initiative was supported by Liberal Deputy Manuel Zelaya. The draft decree introduced in last night's session of Congress was sent to the advisory committee. [passage omitted]

The motion was presented by Deputy Cruz Torres in his own name because immediately after learning about it, the PNH Central Committee, led by Rafael Leonardo Callejas, and the PNH legislative faction withdrew any responsibility for it. The official position of the PNH was made known after the Central Committee held an urgent meeting and issued a communique in this regard. The communique clearly states the motion read by the deputy is not in line with the party's views and, therefore, he is not authorized to speak on the party's behalf. [passage omitted]

The text of the draft decree is as follows:

Whereas the presence of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, contras, in the national territory constitutes a violation of national sovereignty:

Whereas through the permanence in the country of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, contras -- who carry out military actions against their government, with which we have trade, diplomatic, cultural relations, etc. -- we are violating provisions of international law and principles of nonintervention in the affairs of other states, the self-determination of peoples, and peaceful coexistence with other states as established in the charters of the United Nation and the OAS, to which Honduras belongs;

Whereas the presence of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, contras, has caused and continues to cause serious damage to the national economy and to the security and the freedom of thousands of Hondurans;

Therefore, it is decreed:

1. To expel from the national territory the irregular army of the Nicaraguan counterrvolutionaries, contras; and the Nicaraguan civilians who provide political support for it.

2. To establish an unextendable 10-day period for the military and civilian members of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution to peacefully leave the country.

3. To urge the constitutional president of the republic, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to order the implementation of the necessary military actions to strictly fulfill this decree if what is established in the previous point is not heeded.

4. This decree will enter into force on its approval by the National Congress.

Issued in the sessions room of the National Congress of the Republic. [passage omitted]

AZCONA MEETS WITH GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PA291610 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Report by Marcio Moya]

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Rafael Quinonez is right now meeting with Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, supposedly to discuss topics related to Central American problems and the possibilities of reactivating the so-called Contadora Group.

The Guatemalan foreign minister is visiting all countries of the region. He was in Nicaragua today, and tomorrow he will travel to El Salvador for the same purpose. As has been internationally reported, the Guatemalan Government is carrying out an international campaign to reactivate the Contadora Group, so it has sent its foreign minister to visit all the Central American countries. He will subsequently be visiting South America.

NICARAGUA

PROSECUTION SUBMITS EVIDENCE IN HASENFUS TRIAL

PA291918 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Bernardino Rodriguez report from Anti-Somozist People's Tribunal (TPA) in Managua -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the TPA, where presentation has been completed of the writ in which Dr Ivan Villavicencio presented, on behalf of Attorney General Rodrigo Reyes Portocarrero, the evidence against mercenary Eugene Hasenfus, who is being tried by these courts.

As part of the evidence, Dr Villavicencio asked that testimonies be taken from Jose Fernando Canales Aleman, Dairo Montiel Salas, Raul Antonio Acevedo Lara, Angel de Jesus Tenorio Galiano, Feliciano Jose Orozco Mendoza, and Freddy Noel Diaz Garcia. These witnesses will be (?presented), and they have already heard the declaration concerning the downing of the plane. He also requested an on-site inspection of the place at which the plane was downed, and an expert's appraisal of the weapons that were seized inside the plane downed by our revolutionary forces.

After the presentation of his abundant documentation, Dr Villavicencio requested that 1 November and 2 November, when this court normally is not in session, be considered valid days in the 8-day deadline so all the evidence in this trial against U.S. mercenary Hasenfus may be presented.

TPA President Receives Evidence

PA292312 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1726 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Report by Bernardino Rodriguez from the anti-Somozist People's Tribunals (TPA) -- live]

[Text] TPA President Dr Reinaldo Monterrey has just accepted the brief presented by the Nicaragua District Attorney's office. Dr Monterrey said the tribunal will examine the evidence submitted. Defense attorney Dr Enrique Sotelo Borgen has access to this evidence. The TPA will in due course carry out an on-site inspection requested in the incident.

Dr Monterrey explained only Sotelo Borgen is eligible to take part in the trial; therefore, only he can see the documentary evidence submitted so far. However, he can seek advice from whomever he pleases -- 20, 50, 100 or more lawyers or non-lawyers -- but the only one who can take part in the trial, and this must be made clear, is Dr Sotelo Borgen. In other words, Griffin Bell has not been allowed to meet with the mercenary Hasenfus.

We would also like to point out that while the Justice Ministry was presenting the doucmentary evidence this morning, (Thomas Carter), a U.S. Embassy official, contritely looked on and took notes.

GOVERNMENTS AID 'DIRTY WAR' CONTRA 'NETWORK'

PA291435 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] The visits by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's envoy Vernon Walters and William Casey to various Latin American, European, African, and Asian countries sought to pressure governments into allowing the establishment of a supply network of weapons, ammunition, and other military gear for the counterrevolution.

While these countries became involved in a dirty war, which they officially repudiated inside the United States, another network was established to supply the mercenaries with foodstuffs, clothing, shoes, medication, and other items. This was to maintain the appearance that the United States respects neutrality.

The envoys established a network of Central American airports in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras for supply replenishment flights. The main base was set up in Ilopango, a military airport in El Salvador.

In Venezuela, former President Carlos Andres Perez acted as patron to the traitor Pastora. Meanwhile, extreme right-wing sectors in South Korea and Taiwan received authorization from their governments to take action supporting Reagan's policy, while their foreign ministries issued protests and peace messages.

Astorga Requests ICJ Debate

PA291455 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1404 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] We have reports on Nicaragua's decision to go to the UN General Assembly today to ask for a debate on the ICJ ruling in view of the U.S. veto, which blocked Nicaragua's petition that Washington end its support for the counterrevolutionaries.

Nicaraguan UN Ambassador Nora Astroga said the request for Washington to abide by the ICJ ruling will be presented as a priority matter to the 41st UN General Assembly to be discussed by the plenum as soon as possible.

At the UN Security Council last night, Washington vetoed a draft resolution presented by the nonaligned countries, which requested the immediate application of the ICJ ruling.

Contras Reported in Costa Rica

PA281700 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Costa Rica -- The northern region of Costa Rica, on the border with Nicaragua, has recently become a veritable beehive of counterrevolutionaries as the moment approaches for delivery of the Reagan administration's military assistance for the mercenary groups.

Residents of (Copevega), (Chamorrito), and Las Crucitas have said planes fly over the area at night and at dawn almost daily and drop parachutes with big crates of arms. The arms are dropped on the banks of the San Juan River, which serves as a border, and are intended for the mercenaries.

In the past week, between 150 and 200 men -- the new recruits of the counterrevolutionaries -- have passed through these towns, the sources said.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ON ATTACKS BY 'HONDURAN TROOPS'

PA291520 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported last night that during the past several days, Honduran troops carried out 11 attacks by sea with Piranha speedboats and 3 harassment attacks on land in which 3 Nicaraguans were killed.

On 11 October, the Honduran Army carried out an attack north of Jalapa, killing three soldiers. On 22 October, Honduran troops attacked the EPS with LAW rockets and 50 [as heard] machineguns, 12 km from Tetecacinte. On 23 October, the Hondurans attacked the Nicaraguan border post at Las Manos.

In September, Piranha boats attacked (Santo Tomas del Nance) and (Palo Ancho), in Chinandega; (Las Pampas), in Jalapa; and (El Maranon), in Potosi. There were a total of 11 speedboat attacks, including 7 in the Pacific Ocean and 4 in the Atlantic Ocean.

TPA NAMES LAWYER TO REPRESENT MERCENARIES

PA291420 Managua International Service in English 0300 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] A Nicaraguan defense attorney has been named to represent two Cuban-American mercenaries captured in southern Nicaragua, where they were fighting alongside contra groups operating against this country. The lawyer, Alejandro Mena, was appointed to represent the two Cubans by Nicaragua's Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals, a special court system established in 1983 to try people accused of counterrevolutionary crimes.

The two Cuban mercenaries, identified as Ubaldo Hernandez Perez and Eugenio Rojas Lavas, confessed to having been recruited in Miami by the CIA to train as counterrevolutionaries and later enter Nicaragua and join contra ranks. The mercenaries arrived in the United States during the 1980 Mariel boatlift, in which convicted criminals were sent to the United States in a bilateral prisoner exchange. Both Hernandez and Rojas requested Nicaraguan legal defense as their last alternative since the U.S. Government has offered no help and wants to stay out of the case.

CASTRO SPEECH CLOSES JOURNALISTS' MEETING

PA272132 Havana International Service in Spanish 1335 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the closing ceremony of the Union of Cuban Journalists, at the Palace of Congresses on 26 October -- recorded]

[Text] Distinguished guests, journalists, companeras, and companeros. Revolutionary journalism was born at the same time as our struggle for independence. Even before the struggle advocating independence it helped form an awareness, but during the struggle, EL CUBANO LIBRE and other newspapers were being published in the midst of the liberation struggle [manigua libertadora].

We are all aware of the important role the newspaper PATRIA played in the formation of the revolutionary consciousness, in the development of a party. It was one party, as we have said before, not five or two parties; it was only one party. We should say that it was precisely [Jose] Marti who forged this idea of organizing a party to direct the war for independence. We remember those heroic battles waged by Marti with his pen as a revolutionary journalist. Moreover, in the sad times when we were a Yankee neo-colony, revolutionary journalism also existed. Some of the most prominent figures, like Julio Antonio Mella, or Pablo de la Torriente Brao, to mention just two examples, were prominent revolutionary journalists.

There has not been one significant event in the politics or an important social change, or a revolution without revolutionary journalism. Moreover, the Bolshevik party was organized around a revolutionary newspaper, in what is today known as the USSR. Furthermore, the glorious October Revolution was carried out amid revolutionary journalism and revolutionary media.

In our days, in our last struggle for independence, when everything was forbidden and repressed, revolutionary journalism existed in the form of weekly flysheets, clandestine leaflets, and pamphlets.

History will acquit me, and I will also survive through a leaflet read by who knows how many, tens of thousands, perhaps by hundreds of thousands who received direct information on everything that had happened at Moncada [Garrison], in which they learned about the crimes perpetrated and the ideas of this group of revolutionaries. In the Sierra Maestra, we also had the example of Radio Rebelde. This is also a notable example, almost incredible because of the way a small radio station -- I believe it had one kilowatt, if it is too much to say that that small radio station had one kilowatt -- a station that was assembled by hand with certain components, and it turned into a station that, despite being a shortwave station, was widely heard throughout the country. Furthermore, it was even heard abroad. It played a very important role. I believe that this is another important example of the role of revolutionary journalism in the revolution. Of course, in those times the revolutionaries could not talk about the impressive means we now have.

Then came the revolution and the triumph of the revolution, and for the first time the revolution was actually launched in our fatherland and was not a bourgeois revolution. It was a deep social revolution, a proletarian revolution, a socialist revolution. The hopes of those who once believed that the blood shed and the sacrifices made would serve to maintain a capitalist, bourgeois regime here were left behind.

Industry, banks, commerce, everything became the people's property; the country's economy became the people's property; all the production means and the cultural and educational institutions became the people's property also. Moreover, all the mass communication media also became the people's property. I believe that this was one of the most important events that took place in this revolution -- when the press, radio, and television were no longer bourgeois and capitalist properties, at the exclusive service of their own capitalist and bourgeois interests. They laid out the editorials of each and every one of those communication media. They appointed the directors, and they established the line.

The items published were what they wanted to have published, what was advantageous for their interests, and, when they sometimes had a people's cause, it was for mere demagogy. However, the media subsisted on publicity and corruption. The majority of that media were helped by the capitalist bourgeois state, through many and various ways and the publicity commercials.

One of the things that has cleansed our newspapers and mass communication media the most was the total disapperance of advertisements. No, those newspapers could not complain that they had few pages. They had twenty, thirty, sixty pages, and eighty percent was advertisements. Our press was cleansed. The mass communication media were cleansed. I remember one example. We were at the Sierra Maestra.

It was around the middle of 1958 when a television set arrived. We used a small power plant to operate Radio Rebelde and to make the television set work. We liked to watch television. It had been a long time since we had watched television or anything like it.

I remember the eagerness with which the television set was unpacked, but I can tell you that I did not watch television for more than 30 minutes. There was all these advertisements to drink Coca-Cola, smoke this kind of cigar, take a bath with this soap, brush your teeth with this toothpaste. For every 3 minutes of news, there were 4 minutes of commercials. It was sickening. There were also commercials saying: buy soap and win a house, participate in this raffle, buy this and that product. People were being constantly told things about how they could get rich and become millionares through luck.

When a person has lived in the mountains for some time, breathing the fresh mountain air, enjoying its purity, and experiencing the purity of the revolutionary struggle, the shock produced by sudden contact with that kind of commercial bourgeoisie television programming, which was corrupted and was corrupting, was unimaginable.

All the media has passed to the hands of the people. This is how our revolutionary media emerged out of the revolution.

We are not hiding things, we are not hypocrites. The bourgeois say that their media is free. They are talking about the media at the service of the capitalists, of the transnational monopolies, of the bourgeois system of exploitation. That media will never be on the side of the workers, of the proletariat, of the humble, of the exploited.

Whenever that bourgeois media happened to defend any popular cause, it was acting demagogically for the purpose of having more circulation and a larger income in the framework of the bourgeois distribution of wealth. This is how it happens. There is no doubt about that. We have seen examples of that. The U.S. media was very fickle following the Grenada invasion -- that sickening crime against a small country invaded by surprise by the Armed Forces of the most powerful empire in existence.

The U.S. media did not issue one single word to condemn that criminal and crude action. If at the beginning, U.S. media hesitated and issued some criticism, a few days later, in the face of tricks by Reagan -- his histrionics, his role as an actor, the melodramatic presentation to the people of a U.S. student who allegedly had been saved and who was kissing U.S. soil upon arrival and saying thank you because he had been saved after having faced no kind of danger; and when the people, the objective of the manipulations and maneuvers, turned in favor of the government's actions, as the people of the empire usually do because they have been educated to support and sustain imperialist policies and imperialist actions behind a chauvinistic facade, and they usually act more or less the same way -- the hesitation of the U.S. media disappeared and the media began to praise the crime that had been committed against that small country.

The same treatment is applied when there is aggression against other countries, such as the bombing of Libya, the attempt to murder a chief of state and his entire family, and at the beginning of the Vietnam adventure. At that time, the U.S. media helped the empire get into the hole because it supported that dirty way, those crimes.

That is mass media at the service of the empire. They say that it is a free news media. The freedom they have is freedom for the private property to use the media to support reactionary and imperialist systems.

We do not deny that our media are revolutionary at the service of the people, of the just causes of the world -- not only of our country -- and at the service of the revolution. [applause]

We are not ashamed of having a revolutionary media at the service of the revolution and socialism and, more than that, of internationalism. These media defend all the just causes of the world. They defend the just struggles of the people -- of the Nicaraguan people against the dirty war, of the Vietnamese people yesterday, and the South African people today.

These media are not at the service of racism, fascism, reactionary ideas, or unjust systems of exploitation of man by man. These media are, and will always be, at the service of the noble causes of mankind. [applause] We are not ashamed of that. We will never be ashamed of that.

The revolutionary media are part of the revolution, as are revolutionary education and the revolutionary public health system. They are part of the revolution as are our revolutionary Armed Forces, our revolutionary interior organizations, and our revolutionary economy. The press is part of the revolution as is our industry, which is owned by the entire people, not by a foreign monopoly, or by capitalist enterprises of private people, and our revolutionary agricultural activity, which is mostly owned by the people, by our cooperativist peasants and small agricultural producers. The press is part of the revolution as is our revolutionary culture. Our press is one of the great values, one of the pillars of the revolution.

In recent days we have held discussions with the powerful media. We have made maximum use of its powerful resources to strengthen the revolution, to give the media a more active participation in the battle, in internal and external battles as well as political, economic, and development battles. We have given the media a more active role in the ideological struggle, because for the first time we have been the owners of our land.

We are the owners of our mines, our natural resources, our factories, banks, commercial activities, and means of transportation. For the first time we are owners of schools, of the schools in which the sons of our people are educated. We are owners of all clinics, not only of the old hospitals as the (Mazorra) Hospital where people went to die, or like some forgotten, abandoned public hospitals that had no medicines, resources, or budget. To get admitted in those hosital one had to do favors of all kinds. We almost had to sell our souls to get hospitalized in those private hospitals which belonged to the highest bourgoisie.

We must develop a health system far superior to any that existed in Cuban capitalism, and we must develop it until our country becomes a medical power, which it will no doubt become. We own the schools, not those small, abandoned schools that very often had no teachers, but of all the schools where the children of the bourgoisie received their exclusive educations. Then, for the first time, we became the owners of everything, of the industries, factories, of the country's fate, the country's future. It is a matter of how our people use all of these possibilities, all of these resources.

When we criticize, we make general criticisms that should be made of all of the revolution's activities, how they are going, how we use economic resources, how we use farming resources, how we use natural resources, industrial resources, and most important all, human resources. How we use our hospitals, how we use our schools, how our education system works, how our culture works. How these systems influence our mass actions, how the party works and acts, how those who have responsibilities function and act. Many people have responsibilities in the revolution. Thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people. In every little store we still have around that operates there is someone responsible. Before, it used to be the owner who stole and charged excessively high prices if he could. He sold fewer products, he took care of the store. Today, in every commercial establishment, in every service establishment, in every shop, labor front large or small, boat, bus, line of transportation, school, hospital, industry, and farm, there is a people's man working on the people's behalf, managing everything. We may ask, how can we manage all that we have? How do the people administrate their (?stores) and resources? How do the people build their future? They may make mistakes, have all the weaknesses, failings, deficiencies, and irresponsibility. This is what it is all about. We must find a way to capitalize on our resources, to capitalize on the people's efforts.

Within this question, within this struggle, there is another fundamental question: how do we use our mass media? How can we capitalize on our mass media?

We also have to ask ourselves: How are our media participating in that struggle? If we are aware of our weaknesses, deficiencies, and errors in some sectors -- in some more than in others -- we also have to be aware, more than ever, that we have had deficiencies, weaknesses, errors, erroneous concepts in some aspects of our work and in the media. I am not saying this to slight the historic contributions the media have made to the revolution. It would be absurd to deny the historic contributions of our fighters, workers, peasants, mass organizations, all the people, in this epic struggle. No! The media have played a most important role.

When the media was passed to the hands of the people, there was much revolutionary enthusiasm, much patriotic fervor, but there was no profound revolutionary awareness such as exists today. The media played a decisive role in the historic struggle against imperialism, at every difficult moment -- during Giron, the struggle against the mercenary bands and saboteurs sent by the CIA, the October crisis, at all moments, during the days of the marches of the fighting people -- when the media helped create profound revolutionary awareness among our people.

They did not learn that in school. We can learn many things in schools, and we can even receive revolutionary education, but the media was the most important tool of the revolutionary education of our people. It analyzed weaknesses and errors and negative tendencies. Responsibility for these weaknesses is relative because the main responsibility falls on the revolution and the leadership of the revolution, on the political organizations of the revolution. We are responsible for the way fabulous resources such as the media are organized. The media has been used, and has played a role but we could ask if now, after 27 years of revolution, there should be the same points of view. We could ask if the media now are to play the same role they played in another phase. Socialism is new, very new; I do not know if it is still in its cradle as it was said this morning. [laughter] Historically speaking, it is in the cradle. Undoubtedly there are many problems yet to be resolved in many aspects. There is much to be learned, much to be developed, much to be improved in the methods to build socialism, and everybody is learning and trying to learn. We are also learning without letting difficulities upset us, and most important: without ever abandoning revolutionary principles, without abondoning revolutionary optimism or trust in the future of mankind, of society.

We are not desperate, and we don't lose confidence when problems arise. When problems have arisen, it has not been because of the revolution, or because of revolutionary principles; they have emerged because of us. They have emerged because of our inability to be sufficiently revolutionary, and even more, because of our inability to be effectively revolutionary. I believe we are sufficiently revolutionary in our personal attitudes, but we have to be effectively revolutionary, socialist, and communist.

In the history of revolutionary processes, when the people, the parties, or the organizations have faced big obstacles and big difficulties, there have been setbacks, disappointments, loss of confidence. It is said that there is a historic law by which reaction always follows a revolution. This is true, and this is why we are always opposed to extremism, because extremisms are followd by extremisms. There is no reason why I should specify names of countries, or places, or processes, but they are for us to see in contemporary history.

There can be tactical retreats. Even Lenin was forced to make tactical retreats. Lenin never conducted stategic retreats. I am saying that indeed it is essential and fundamental to never lose confidence in the future, in man's capacity to make things better, in man's capacity to make fairer societies. We are doing that. At this congress, I have cited examples of negative tendencies, like that of wanting to solve problems effortlessly. And, most of all, a negative tendency was developed in the process of trying to rectify the mistakes of idealism that had been made. Moreover, these tendencies were having the opposite effects.

There was a tendency to make mistakes of mercantilism and economics [economisismo]; a tendency to forget that socialism must be built -- and that men, not mechanisms, must build it -- to forget that the political factor is fundamental, that the factor of man's awareness is fundamental. These negative tendencies had begun to appear. Fortunately, we strongly stood up to them as soon as they became evident. They could have been discovered earlier, but I think that we discovered them basically at the right time. Therefore, in this task or in this struggle of rectifications, or rather, in this struggle against the negative tendencies, as we have called them, the press has a fundamental role to play. We were talking about that yesterday. I do not like to repeat things, although in this case we are not talking behind closed doors, but rather, we are talking openly, live, and directly through these fabulous communications media like television and radio, [loud applause] Havana radio included.

It seems to me that we talked about serious matters relating to the role of the press and the role of criticism. We said that there was something I thought was essential. Criticism entails the sense of shame in people. Otherwise, what good is criticism? To punish people? To make people unhappy? To destroy people? To make people feel more unhappy? Anybody who makes a mistake deserves to be punished. Perhaps for that person criticism is a punishment. For us, it does not have that meaning. I would say that criticism constitutes an appeal to people's sense of shame and honor. We should not criticize a criminal. We should take him to court. We should punish him. We should not criticize a thief. We should of course criticize stealing. We should teach people about the concept of what stealing is, how selfish it is to steal; to steal the things others work for; to deprive others of something. We can explain a great deal about ethics. We can express the moral values of honesty, etcetera. However, we must adopt measures against criminals, counterrevolutionaries, and parasites. Anybody who engages in criminal activities must be taken to court. Criticism is not meant for those people.

Fundamentally, criticism is directed at men of honor and shame, that is, men and women of honor and shame. Criticism is directed at those who make mistakes. It can be directed at those who have behaved irresponsibly or thoughtlessly. It is calling someone's attention to mend his ways. Those that are incorrigible must simply be taken out from the tasks which they may be conducting, or the responsibilities that they may have. Criticism is directed at the sense of honor and shame in human beings -- of those who make mistakes and those who do not, so that those who make mistakes may correct them, and those who do not may continue not to. I also say that even those who make serious mistakes, or not, in even those that make serious mistakes, or sometimes commit crimes, one can find a tiny seed of shame and honor hidden.

People are more afraid of being judged by other people than of going to jail. For some reason, they are more afraid of public criticism than of jail. For example, when medical doctors committed criminal actions, they were tried and punished. I think that was part of this mercantilist, commercial trend being carried out. In previous years we never had cases of doctors selling medical certificates. People purchased these certificates so they could retire early or evade certain basic obligations, such as military service, or defending the fatherland. When these cases are reported in the press, to appeal to the honor and shame of these tens of thousands of doctors and health workers. Medical technicians were also involved, not just doctors. Tens of thousands of people were involved. An appeal was made to the honor and shame of this sector's people. The responsible parties received moral, criminal, and administrative punishments.

There was a basic goal in these punishments. The goal was to educate, to pry into the honor and conscience of the human being. If I did not believe in man, I would not believe in the true sense of criticism. In that case it would only be considered a punishment. Actually, none of us would be stimulated by the idea of a society that behaves in a given way, not because it has a lofty values system; not because it has honor and shame, but simply because it is afraid of punishment.

We humiliate man too much when we believe he is only capable of rising to the occasion by means of a whip. A society could never be free unless it is based on values and on principles. Capitalism is very coercive. Coercion prevails in capitalism, from its ferocious and repressive methods to the daily punishment of losing a job or of economic pressures. Capitalism is a society of coercion. Socialism is a society of values and of conscientious men and women. We cannot conceive of socialism in any other way. We must try to analyze the positive and negative things we have done.

When we refer to criticism we are talking about objective information. It does not destroy anyone. It fights against mistakes, inefficiency, problems, and negative tendencies. Socialism is based on conscience and truly human values. Who can help develop consciences and values better than the press and other communications media? Who can educate more than the press and other communications media? That is why I said we must not become disheartened by criticism. I said the party is not a powerful god that sees all and solves all problems immediately. The party is strong and its strength is impressive. It is in many places but it cannot be everywhere. Sometimes mistakes are made by party members themselves. Sometimes the Communist Youth makes mistakes. Sometimes mistakes are made by the party at one level or the other. Alone the party can not win the battles against negative tendencies and mistakes. The people must fight those battles. It must be a battle of the masses.

The party may be a vanguard. It may be aggressive, but the party alone cannot wage battles. Battles can only be waged and won by the masses. Our Army is strong. It is skillful and brave; however, the task of defending the fatherland cannot be carried out only by the Army. The only way to wage this battle is with all the people. Only the people can win battles in the defense of the fatherland and of the revolution. [applause] The battle against crime or the expansion of crime cannot be waged solely by the police and by Interior Ministry organizations. This battle cannot be waged and it cannot be won without the participation of the masses, without the organizations of the masses and without the people.

No one can possibly think the police can solve all those problems by themselves; the struggle to prevent crime includes the participation of all the mass organizations, the CEDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution], the workers, women, peasants, everyone; it is a preventive struggle. The mass organizations participate in the education and reeducation struggle; the education struggle cannot depend solely on the Education Ministry. What acould the Education Ministry do? The struggle to solve the problems in education must involve the participation of the people, parents, uncles and aunts, grandparents, everyone.

The education and health activities, the struggle against epidemics, the vaccination plans, the blood donation drives -- all these involve the people's participation and they can only be carried out by the people. The struggle against all the negative tendencies is also a task for all the people. We must be aware of this; there is an increasing awareness about this. Oh, and there is the irreplaceable role of the press. I said we cannot simply wait for the news; we must go out and seek the news; we must investigate; we must know what we have. We must know what goes against our principles, norms, and policies. We must investigate wherever a negative event takes place, in case it affects the country's economy or corrupts the people, or wherever something does not work as it should. We must investigate; however, we should not only investigate and report. We must carry on the battle; each journalist must become a gladiator against anything that, in his opinion, is not correct or does not work.

Each journalist must exert himself until the problem is truly solved or settled. Of course, he is not only a gladiator who fights against every incorrect thing; he is also a struggler who strives for everything to be done correctly; he encourages and supports correctly done things; he is a creator of the new society; a builder of socialism. This is precisely what it is all about.

The construction of socialism is everyone's historic task. That is why I said yesterday that this is a joint task; it is a task for all the people. The construction of socialism basically involves political work. It also requires revolutionary work and joint efforts. It requires the struggle and efforts of all the people. We also said it is occasionally necessary to criticize, not only officials and organizations, but groups, sometimes complete groups of workers who, for some reason or other -- and always due to erroneous concepts or methods; due to irresponsible attitudes, negligence, lack of effort -- are overcome by a negative tendency. Similarly, people are tempted with money or can only be swayed with material incentives. This destroys their solidarity and communist zeal; and socialism -- above all, communism -- is based on a strong feeling of solidarity among men.

Socialism and communism do not imply a struggle among men, as in capitalism, where -- as Marx rightfully said -- man is wolf to the man. Socialism and communism are truly a society of brothers, in which man becomes brother, relative, and support to the man. The famous socialist formula is not a communist formula yet; the famous socialist formula is an unavoidable road because we are building a new society, a new man. Yes, we have begun to build a new society with a new social awareness. Marx himself said the socialist formula could not overcome the narrow-minded bourgeoisie formula of paying each man according to his work. Some men could... [changes thought] were stronger than others and could work more than others; some were more intelligent than others and could produce more than others, create more than others; but the narrow-minded bourgeoisie formula could not be overcome. And it is true. That is the truth about historical processes, and this compels us to implement a socialist formula.

We committed some mistakes because of our idealism, and this affected our situation. We established an egalitarian system that could affect the development of our economy and the construction of socialism.

Reality schooled us and forced us to make corrections. But the abuse of material incentives, something that had begun to happen there [not further identified], and neglect in efforts to create awareness may cause a society to regress.

Anyone can understand communism will never exist without revolutionary consciousness. Anyone can understand communism will never exist without a communist education. Anyone can understand communism will never exist without a communist system of social and ethical values. What mechamism will create this?

Will the mechanism be that of telling a worker: Listen, I will pay you three or four times as much if you come to work? Listen, I will not fight your absenteeism because I expect you, in an effort to earn 300, 500, 700, 800, or 1,000 pesos a month -- ignoring that a ridiculous regulation [not further identified] you will earn 1,000 pesos -- and that that will move you to work? [sentence as heard] It could be that a man who earns 200 pesos could say: what do I need 1,000 pesos for? I would rather work 2 hours every day and rest the remaining 22.

What could happen is that this man could be corrupted. When would you make a communist out of this man? How are you ever going to make a communist out of this man by appealing to personal greed and selfishness?

When it is decided to give up, abandon, and scorn voluntary work, how can you ever make a communist out of this man? When you corrupt a man and you keep him thinking about salaries and money, how can you expect that this man will perform the greatest task of solidarity, which is internationalism? Internationalism is a willingness to leave your children, relatives, and loved ones to fulfill a mission anywhere.

Our country has had hundreds of thousands of men and women who are internationalists. I believe internationalism is a school of communism. I believe voluntary work is a school of communism. It teaches man to forget about himself and do something for others and for society.

We must realistically apply the formula of wage commensurate with work [vinculacion] and the socialist formula. We cannot escape this historical process and we must reward at least a large portion of the citizens in accordance with their production, work, and the quantity and quality of their work.

Not everything is distributed in a socialist way here. The people's health does not fall within the framework of a socialist reward. Regardless of the fact a man is a retiree or a producer -- whether he produces much or nothing -- when he goes to the Ameijeiras Hospital to undergo a heart operation, he is not asked how much he has contributed to society in the production of material goods. He is not asked how much he is contributing to society. Our society's sacred mission to this man is to save his life, regardless of the expense involved.

No family is asked how much it is contributing to society when the time comes to register a child at school, or when he begins secondary school, or enters one of the new applied sciences' schools, any of the vocational schools, or the university to study nuclear physics, medicine, engineering, or any other career. These are achievements of our society. If we did not apply this principle in several basic matters, how would we be different from capitalism? Yes, because capitalism also pays according to the work performed, [vinculacion], regulations, and all that. [sentence as heard] The individual only depends on that to receive medical attention, feed himself, receive education, or educate his family.

In capitalism, one could not care less if someone loses his parents, is abandoned, dies of hunger, or his house collapses. One could not care less if thousands of peasants go broke when there is a hurricane or a plague, or when there is a drought.

Capitalism does not care if millions of people are jobless. However, everytime a hurricane hits Cuba, no one is asked anything, not even if he is a worm [gusano] or a revolutionary. So, when the resources and the relief arrive, protection is given to everyone and preventive measures are taken. Everyone receives all the benefits of the socialist society. If we did not do this, we would be no different from capitalism because, so far as the payment for work is concerned, capitalism and socialism are almost the same. [sentence as heard]

Not everything in our country is distributed according to the very clear principle: from each according to his ability to each according to his need.

That society is still not perfect. That society is imperfect because man is still imperfect. Man is still not a 100-percent brother of his fellow man. Man is still not in 100 percent solidarity with his fellow man. Not all men have a communist awareness, a communist sense of duty, a communist system of values. Even though there are many communists in our country -- there are many, many citizens in our country -- we could mention those teachers and doctors who went to Nicaragua, those who were willing to give their lives in other lands, those who were willing to give all in exchange for nothing. How else can I describe them but as communists.... [Castro does not complete thought]. I brought this up and have spoken about it at length simply to stress the idea that socialism initially, and communism even more, can only be the work of free men. It can be the work of a free people; of a free society; of the development of awareness; of the teachings passed on to the children of that society.

Can a mechanism create this awareness? Can a mechanism teach those principles? Only society can do this through its main organizations, the most important of which is the party. That is why we call it a Communist Party not a socialist party. We do not have a Cuban socialist party. We have a party which we have never hesitated, despite the anti-communism of the early days of the revolution and the international campaign opposed to it, to call the Communist Party of Cuba. [applause] We are not a reformist or social democratic party. We are not even a socialist party. We are more and want to be more than that, as Marx, Engels, and Lenin wanted. They spoke about socialism, they spoke about communism. They viewed socialism as a phase, as a long process. No one can tell yet when a society can be classified as a communist society; one does not exist yet. No one knows how much longer it will be, but it will take even longer to make us forget the idea. Communism is awareness, it must be taught; it is the work of the party and revolution; it is the work of the people and not the work of mechanisms.

Much can be said about the first ideas of socialism, of communism; of the Marxist ideal. It was born of the possibility of developing the productive forces. It was born of the idea of producing goods in such abundance that need would be eliminated. That huge torrent of wealth would satisfy every need of man and enable a communist distribution. We believe that it is true. We believe that building socialism, or communism, demands a very developed economy, it requires an extraordinary encouragement and development of productive forces, but we cannot reduce the Marxist concept to the sole idea that someday there will be such an abundance of goods and that there will be so many goods for everyone, that people will only need to go and pick them up. We will be lacking nothing.

We cannot reduce the revolutionary essence of Marxism to the basic idea of abundance and the idea that abundance will promote communism. That utopian abundance will never exist. Anyone can understand that, especially if one analyzes world history in the past 30, 40, or 50 years. There has undoubtedly been a great development of the forces of production, but there has also been an enormous waster of natural resources.

Oil was discovered only 100 years ago, yet it will probably not last more than 30 or 40 years. Other mineral resources are also being used up. We can believe that science will develop other forms of fuel and energy. That is possible, and nuclear energy is an example. There are countries, especially European countries, where energy is produced by nuclear reactors. In a certain way, however, a nuclear reactor is a chained devil that requires serious, responsible, and efficient handling to prevent the devil from escaping.

Man may have the technology to achieve the necessary control nuclear energy requires. He is achieving it in this field and in other fields, and in many places. He can develop forms of energy to replace oil when it runs out. In theory, hypothetically, science and technology should continue to develop until true productive goals are achieved. However, the environment begins to get polluted at the same time. The seas, the rivers, the lakes, and the atmosphere begin to get polluted. Therefore, new problems begin to emerge. The automobile society was developed which consumes thousands of tons of fuel each year. At the same time, phenomena began to appear in the atmosphere, and changes in the ozone layer occured. The ozone layer is a filter that protects human life on earth.

This consumer society, which has wasted so many natural resources, so much oil and other raw materials, is now being invaded by a new fear, the fear of pollution. This fear has become a fact. No one ever considered how many cars, locomotives, and trucks would be in operation throughout the world and how much carbon monoxide they would spew into the air, how many resources they would waste, and how they were going to poison the environment, without which there can be no life on earth. Furthermore, these inventions lead to the invention of nuclear weapons. Scientists know if the tragedy of a nuclear was should occur some day, there would be nothing left. There would be no one left to tell about it. This is a fact. Man has achieved great technological progress, but he has not achieved great progress in the political field. Consequently, he is not yet capable of politically guaranteeing human survival, which could well become the victim of technological development.

What then is communism? A society in which every individual has a car, as our developed societies have tried to demonstrate? The so-called consumer societies that are based on the exploitation and hunger of millions of human beings in the world? What could communism be? A society in which a car is given to every individual or a society in which modern, comfortable, efficient, fast, and secure transportation exists, even metros and other healthier means. Could it be a society in which the individual has 50 suits and 40 pairs of shoes? A society of abundance? Can we equate the idea of communism to something so crude, vulgar, or absurd?

Communism will require not only the development of the productive forces. Communism will require education. Communism will require a communist conscience or there will be no communism, only societies of beasts like those we see in the United States and elsewhere. They cannot find ways to control vice, prostitution, gambling, and drugs. They are at war. The Reagan administration is waging war against drugs and every day there are more drug addicts. It has tried to halt the production in greenhouses. It is trying to prevent the production of cocaine, which is derived from an ancient plant cultivated by the Indians to make a drink, not to extract the drug, but as harmless drink. Now cocaine is being produced synthetically in laboratories as a result of the development of chemistry, organic chemistry, and the productive forces which produce this society of wolves.

More drugs, more disease, more mentally deranged. Will that society be able to educate man in other ideas, with other values and concepts? Our socialism is still very deficient and very new. Our socialist formula is far from being a communist formula. But at least this socialist society can educate man in other values, with other sentiments, with other ideas. Therefore, when something happens that causes us to regress, we must realize to correct it, and forcefully fight it.

As we have said, some forms of neocapitalism were emerging here. There were wheeler-dealers who dared to go to garbage dumps and collect cans of discarded goods to refurbish and sell the cans. Others took advantage of any opportunity, and need, to live off others. Some people wanted to become millionaries and we have cited some examples. These are negative tendencies that not only lead us away from the path of communism, but also away from socialism.

These tendencies achieved some measure of popularity. They are easily promoted and difficult to fight under an irresponsible administration incapable of revising standards even though this may result in the introduction of productive technical means. [sentence as heard] When a group of workers becomes accustomed to earning twice, three, or even four times as much as they are really producing; when wages increase more than productivity, we are corrupting the people, straying from reality, straying from socialism, deviating from the path of communism.

There is no doubt that all this reasoning leads us to the conclusion that the construction of socialism and communism is principally a political responsibility, a revolutionary responsibility, an educational responsibility. It is independent of the development of the material base and the development of the productive forces. This is inexcusable.

How can we accelerate the process of development of the productive forces? By squandering material and human resources? By forgetting work, wasting the workday? By working 4 or 5 hours? Can we accelerate the development of the productive force by doubling or tripling the payroll and wasting human resources? We have no right or justification to waste human resources because there are so many other ways to fight unemployment without resorting to doubling the payroll. There is nothing more expensive than doubling the payroll. It means doubling expenses in the mess halls, doubling transportation costs, doubling in the space offices and shops require, doubling costs.

There are so many fields that can employ people. The existence of more than 260,000 professors and teachers is proof of this. It is better to educate a teacher or a professor than to have a man or woman in an office doing nothing. This corrupts or makes three men accustomed to doing the work of one. It is better to have that man studying. If there are too many teachers, they can continue studying, as is happening now. Theoretically we have 10,000 teachers too many, but that is not an excess. We have 10,000 teachers and professors studying. How much better and cheaper is it to have a man studying than using transportation, food and everything else in additon to corrupting others, making them accustomed to working at one-half, one-third, one-quarter of their true capacity.

These are negative tendencies. Some are old. Who knows how old this one about excess payrolls is and all that. Thus we must create an awareness that human resources should not be squandered or underused. We must create the conscience that the workday is sacred. We must create the conscience that socialism cannot be constructe without work and that we cannot have development without work.

Evidently, there are many people, there must be people who believe that socialism can be built without work, that development can proceed without work, or that the abolition of exploitation means the abolition of work. These are ideas, concepts, values, and principles that must be implanted. They are also related to tendencies that must be fought.

We are at a new stage. Imperialist hostility and the blockade have not ceased, but we are not in the initial years of the revolution, we are in a new stage of the revolution. It is a different stage in which we have to become aware of negative tendencies that are inherited and others that developed later. I am far from being pessimistic. I am far from imagining that everything has been bad. In past years, I have witnessed and am witnessing many excellent things, many extraordinarily positive things, many magnificent people, many extraordinary intellectual and manual workers. I am conscientious of what our youth is, of what our youth is worth, and of the great accomplishments of the new generations, without imaging that in any way this is applicable to 100 percent of the young.

However, it can be seen everywhere. I see it. I have seen it not once but many times. To give you a few examples that show 100 percent willingness: doctors to send to Nicaragua, 100 percent; teachers to send to Nicaragua, 30,000; teachers who offered themselves after the labor congress after a few teachers had been murdered, 100,000. These are advances have been made, in spite of all the problems we have. I do not know whether at any time a society in this aspect, in this spirit of solidarity, has advanced more than we have.

I am not an optimist. On the contrary, I am aware of all the progress we have made, but I am also aware of the negative tendencies, of our weak points, of the task that we have to develop, of the battles we must wage. In every case, they are long battles. Some of these problems have already been discussed in our third congress and later, more clearly yet, we discussed others or very clearly, I am not going to say more clearly than in the principal report on 19 April. In this way, we have been discussing all these problems. And we are creating consciousness and are seeing many positive things and see many positive reactions. We must not be discouraged because we see negative things.

It would be sheer idealism to believe this battle can be won with speeches, that it is won overnight, that it is won by attending meetings, that is is won by attending a congress. This battle can only be won through a tremendous constant effort, and a tremendous firm effort over a long period of time. It is not just the battle against the negative aspects, but it is a battle for the future, for new values, for new positive things we must create.

Concerning the workers of the press, we have had two very important meetings. The plenary session held in May and now this congress. Much was said for many hours during the plenary session. Many problems were frankly discussed, and work has begun. A new phase was not opened during that meeting. A new phase had been opened much earlier, during the Third Congress that gained mementum on 19 April, and advanced even more during the plenary session, will advance even more after this congress.

It would be erroneous to think this is a task that can be achieved in a day and we will emerge overnight with a new style, a new line, an infinite efficiency. It would be a mistake to look at things that way. This is a process that is being carried out. We are struggling so this process can develop in the best possible manner, so this process can be carried out without problems. True, there will be some difficulties, but we hope it will develop without any setbacks at all. I think we are also engaged in solving an historical task. How should journalism operate in socialism?

What should be the role of the media in building socialism? What should it be for us? I am not criticizing the experiences of any other country. What should the role of journalism be in advancing along the path of communism? This topic is important, not only for you, for this generation of journalists. Here there are some younger ones and some older ones. This is a very important subject for all the young journalists, the 377 students of journalism we currently have, and the new ones to come.

This is a very important topic, and we wonder what type of journalism we will have in 1987, 1988, in 1990; what type of journalism we will have in the year 2000. What is the role of journalism, and what is the role of the journalist in the construction of socialism, and what should be the role of the media in socialism? I think nobody has really solved this yet. There are some who have more experience than us, or less experience, but we must advance along the path of our own experience. We must discover and carry out that role. What we are sure of is that that role is decisive, parting from our concepts. As for me, personally, it is based on my concepts of society, man, socialism, communism, and freedom.

I think that role is decisive in creating an awareness, in creating those values, in creating those feelings. We are not going to discover this overnight, and we must not try to discover it in 1 day. As for all those negative things and that lack of efficiency that we have become aware of, to control it, we must overcome it.

During these two meetings, I think we have enriched our experience very much concerning problems and various types of problems. During the plenary session, we found out there were not even enough typewriters to go around. Furthermore, perhaps the typewriters were purchased by some pillager in the balck market, but a journalist could not purchase a typewriter. This is not the case of an automobile. This is the case of a typewriter. This was also the case of radio cassettes, or other materials for the cartoonists, of the various communications workers, maybe a certain table, or a lamp. These are details of a material type. They are no less important, but it was shameful to admit typewriters had to be purchased by others who had more money, or the one that was trading things, or making business deals. The fact was a journalist could not purchase it, and we were really in sad shape. That worried us, and a decision was adopted to give this priority. Those who need these supplies are much more important than those who sell them for 600 or 700 [currency not specified].

We had some serious material problems and some very serious problems, erroneous concepts, difficulties. I must sincerely say those of us who have been related to these types of activities in these decades have learned much. We have discussed many things and, we discussed these issues very freely.

In this congress we have discussed a great many things, above all with absolute freedom. I was very pleased to see yesterday that all the participants who asked for the floor in the 2 days had their chance to speak. Perhaps only a few whom I saw raising their little cards near the end of the congress did not have a chance to speak. We cheated a little bit. For example, in matters of procedures, journalists tried to take the floor on three or four different occasions, etc. These are merely journalists' tricks.

On the other hand, in regard to the congress' organization, they behaved with great discipline. Despite this, we cannot say that we discussed all problems. We continue to have and analyze problems, but many problems were discussed, and we discussed them with absolute freedom. We discovered things; well, we discovered so many things that we put together a large amount of humorous literature here. We discussed the problems of Sunun and Bijirita, the poor little things to which no one has given an answer. We discussed the problems of BOHEMIA, specifically the problem of the 40 or 45 days that BOHEMIA takes to present its title page -- what do you call it -- the cover, yes. I have heard of that problem repeatedly.

Well, this magazine's problem gave rise to a cartoon -- the television audience can see it too. We see an old man with a roguish look holding a copy of BOHEMIA in his hands. He is accompanied by a smiling pioneer who has two little teeth. The balloon beside the old man reads: At last my picture is on BOHEMIA! [laughter] At least 65 years went by before the picture was published. Something like this could have really happened to BOHEMIA. I know of several roads which took 65 years to be completed. If one follows that pace and ideas, it is obvious the most convenient method would be to tell people they have to send the cover in 40 or 45 days or to invent excuses and false needs.

For example, people alleged they needed to print books and buy machines. They took apart those machines and failed to put them back together. They also disassembled some machines and decided not to reassemble them and place them somewhere else. In addition, they also refused to buy certain book printing machines, and I know that for several years they kept printing from equipment that was never assembled. Besides, we have built brand new printing plants like those of Guantanamo and Palma, and we have rebuilt many printing plants as well. I wonder if to resolve a problem like printing books the only formula is to print the covers in 45 days, or to send the covers 45 days in advance, which is the same thing.

We must definitely be having some complications, because if we have to wait for 90 days or for 3 or 4 months to get the covers printed, a few things must be going wrong. Perhaps some of these problems are problems of organization and consensus. Perhaps we have done some things at the expense of others, and I do not think that is correct. If one has new needs, one has to create the right formula to satisfy those new needs without creating new problems. Perhaps they overprinted, or they printed more books than they could, thus resulting in an anarchical number of publications which surpassed our printing capacity, creating those problems which we would now have to resolve so that a magazine that circulates, for example, 260,000 copies, or any other magazine in the same situation does not have to wait for a month and a half, or 40 days, not even for 35 days, because this outdates the publications and promotes this kind of situation.

The truth is that we have to look into the problems of these publications, which can only be released with some luck. I gave an example yesterday of a magazine that published an article on a Latin American event many days after it took place. It was probably published 3 months after the event took place. It was a ridiculous thing to publish this article. We have to make a study of all this, and I believe we now have to stop and not go any further until we have resolved this.

It would be a foolish thing to release a new publication if we do not have the capacity to release the ones we already have. We will have to make a study of the role of each of the magazines of our organizations, such as how many are published, how many more are needed, and what their quality is. We have to pry into this. We really have to check out their quality. We cannot go any further until we have resolved their problems. These things are obvious.

We discussed problems of many organizations. We discussed the problems of the radio. Some people are unaware of the role of the radio. Some people underestimate the importance of the radio. Some of us underestimate the radio because we believe that the existence of 2 million television sets decreases the value of other media. We discussed the fact that we have made important investments in the radio. We have powerful and terrific radio stations. We have advanced and we will advance even more. New ideas have emerged in the field of television. We discussed many problems and obstacles of graphic, television, and radio reporters in gathering news. We discussed many problems of this type.

Mind you, we agreed on the essential things as far as the present situation of journalism and its future prospects are concerned. We have argued a lot on conceptual matters. There is a consensus, let us say a unanimous agreement regarding a new policy on the need to open new information sources, on the need of newspaper directors to be more responsible in handling and publishing news items. There have been plenty of discussions on the role of the critics and criticism, in-depth concepts, which are reflected in the agreements, opinions, and recommendations. However, many practical things emerged from this, many practical things. It could be clearly seen that we do not have a firm policy, a serious study on our journalists needs. At this moment there are very few journalism students. However, it became clear after the study that we have to see how many journalists the country needs -- how many specialized journalists are needed. The idea emerged of not only specializing journalists in fields such as economics, technical, and scientific areas, but to also convert into journalists, and prepare them as such, specialists in economy, medicine, agriculture, and other activities -- as fortunately there are a great number of these specialists. However, these studies have not yet been made. We have to develop a policy. We have to decide on the number of entries. We have to decide carefully on the role the guiding bodies are to play. I saw a very young man around here, who said he was going to be a journalist. He was enrolled in a special course.

We also discussed workshops, the role of these courses, and the objectives they could have in the future. Therefore, we are not going to put a limit on someone who may wish to become a journalist, but we have to define well... it might not be a professional study, not in order to work as a professional, but we must open the path for new values for the younger generations that are emerging. [sentence as heard]

The agreements and opinions broadly reflect what was discussed here. The question of spokesmen [voceros] was widely discussed -- and was the subject of many cartoons here. They started calling it voice or nothing [Voz o Cero], [play on word, voceroi meaning spokesman and voz cero, meaning voiceless]. [laughs] The idea has been greatly discussed and questioned, which leads us to the idea of analyzing it, to study it better, test it, experiment.

What we all agreed upon is the need to fully open up the sources of information. We discussed several methods: I believe that we are starting a new stage with this. This is the start of a new stage. I hope a new stage is started. We will then make headway in that direction, but after the congress, we should fight for a new stage with much more communication from the journalists with all the state offices, with state leaders, and with party leaders. Let us say a daily contact should be established, a systematic contact.

What is needed is maximum state and party cadre cooperation. We could define it as an apprenticeship -- a mental adapatation -- to develop real cooperation. We all must understand the role of revolutionary journalism in the construction of socialism.

The same way in which we want maximum cooperation in our work, the Armed Forces want maximum cooperation in things related to the country's defense: the Interior Ministry, Agriculture, Industry, Economy, Culture, Education, and Public Health Ministries. Let us understand the very important role of journalism in the construction of socialism, and thus lend it maximum cooperation to carry out this work. [applause]

We must not forget for one single minute that we are talking about revolutionary companeros, militants for the same cause, people who are struggling for the same objectives, and that our journalism is revolutionary, that our journalists represent an active, capable, and combative contingent. They are revolutionary militants. I say capable because I do believe they are capable. I believe we can be more capable however. We have to study and improve ourselves a great deal. All of use have to do this. No one can evade that. I believe we can be much more efficient, and this is what we are talking about. We have to make bigger and better efforts. Journalists have to do that with the cooperation of everyone else.

I say we have a capable contingent that has carried out activities under conditions that, objectively speaking, have been difficult: without understanding and without cooperation.

This is a new phase, and phases do not emerge overnight or from one month to the next. This is a phase in process. I believe we can go a long way with it. I believe that it could become a support. I am talking about the role of journalism in the construction of socialism. Let there be analyses. Let us fulfill the task of reporting, analyzing, investigating, criticizing, orienting, and educating. Yes, educating! To educate means to develop socialist awareness, communist awareness. It means to be on the alert against anything trying to physically divide our society, against obstacles that obstruct our march to development in the economic and social fields, against anything that obstructs development of this kind of awareness, against everything that is corrupting.

Regarding negative tendencies and bad habits, such as those we notice in many services and as a result of generalized complaints, the party alone can not eradicate those tendencies and habits or irresponsibility.

The administration cannot do it. It is the least capable of doing it. Only the people can do it because it is the people, who as bus drivers, restaurant employees, or workers at a service center, sometimes behave in an improper manner. Sometimes workers make demands and bitterly complain when they receive poor and inefficient service, but they themselves commit the same type of fault.

I once saw a documentary on various people, each individual complaining about the others. This is a true situation. We have to analyze that. We have to fight that strongly. We have to strongly criticize all that, all those who are responsible for this. We cannot be demagogic and only criticize an institution. I repeat: we have to criticize the workers and the groups and we have to call people by their names, and we have to identify work centers, establishments, and shops where there is a negative tendency, because, and I return to the original idea, no one can imagine the strength of shame and honor. No one can imagine that.

This is why there is no better tool than public criticism. I believe that public criticism is much stronger than the Interior Ministry and the other ministries.

Marti once said that a just principle, even if not widely known, has more force than an army. Fair and timely criticism has more force than the state and the party. Therefore, how can the party struggle against negative tendencies if, on occasions, the militants of the party, of the youth -- as I have said before -- make this type of mistake?

How could this be done without criticism? And I am not talking about party criticism, or criticism at the nucleus or at the organization level. I am talking about public criticism, analyses. I believe that in the framework of our militancy, responsibility and discipline, we should go as far as possible.

We have talked here about objective situations that we as militant revolutionaries must take into account. I say that this will hamper us very little.

I think that what Companero Mendoza told us yesterday is very appropriate. He spoke to us about the days of the war in the Sierra Maestra, about the principles that were never disregarded by the revolution. The revolution never told a lie. Our news and orientation organ -- Radio Rebelde -- never claimed we had one bullet more than what we actually had, never claimed we had one more rifle or one casualty less than what we inflicted on the enemy. Never! Not once in the entire war!

I don't know how many wars have been waged this way, but that was the trademark of our war. Some of the things that are being discussed now were being discussed 28 years ago. They came up around the time Mendoza mentioned. Radio Rebelde had slogans and the truth. It did not fear reporting on information implying, as Mendoza noted, serious and strong criticism for a region or a province. It was convinced that such reporting would have positive, not negative, results and that the people would react with a sense of honor. When Radio Rebelde reported a setback, that setback could not be a strategic setback. It could have been a setback for a strategic operation, but it could not be a strategic setback for the revolution because the revolution was very strong. Those setbacks did delay operations in a province and did imply a large number of setbacks, but in spite of the war, we did not hesitate to report about all that.

Why can't we apply the same principle today? Why can't we report extensively on success and setbacks, about the good and the bad? We have agreed, we have said, that the worms [Cubans opposed to the revolution], the counterrevolutionary elements, must not meddle in this. This is not their business. This is our business. This is a concern of the revolutionary family. This is how we must make our analysis and criticism.

I have said this was our trademark. It yielded excellent results because the enemy listened to our reports and knew that what we were saying was true. The people knew it, too. There were revolutionaries in places where we could not communicate with them, but they knew that the reports broadcast by Radio Rebelde were exact. Whenever the Second Front, in Villaclara, or any other revolutionary column, issued a war report, we all knew that it was absolutely truthful, that not one bullet, one prisoner, or one casualty, had been added to the true figures. The same guideline applied for them also: total veracity, total objectivity.

This is how our media have to be: truthful and objective.

These were not the only principles that gave moral strength to the revolution. No enemy element was ever beaten during the entire war. No enemy element was ever tortured. Not one, not even if he had been a thug, even if he had abused the population. They were not abused. Furthermore, with the exception of people who committed crimes and who had to be brought to court, prisoners were released.

The enemy had absolute confidence in the Revolutionary Army. When we called to them to surrender, they knew that we would respect their lives. They knew we were telling the truth. Often they fought longer than common sense indicated they should have, especially taking into account the lousy cause they were defending.

But they were certain that if they would surrender no one would be murdered or tortured.

We have upheld this line, without change. You know very well how miserable people try to slander the revolution and speak of torture in the revolution. There is not one single case of torture in the 28 years of the revolution. Not one! There is no one here who would tolerate that. The reason for this is that we created awareness -- and this is another example of the importance of awareness -- to repudiate crime, torture, and abuse. We developed an awareness, and this awareness is the reason we never detoured from those principles, why we never allowed ourselves to be carried away by hatred or irritation to torture or kill anybody.

At the Bay of Pigs we captured more than 1,200 prisoners, approximately 1,200 prisoners. The troops who had been fighting for dozens of hours and who had lost dozens of companeros were inflamed with passion, but all our people know that not one single prisoner was touched, not one single mercenary was beaten, not one single mercenary was mistreated, not one single mercenary was murdered. We are talking about men who attacked their fatherland, who had sold themselves to the enemy.

These principles have been upheld without change. The infamous campaigns of slander being carried out by imperialism and the CIA against Cuba will contrast with this historic truth.

I believe our biggest source of honor is that we know how to be principled men, and I think that we must never move away from principles that have served to consolidate our national revolution. Of course it was easier to apply these principles when operating a radio station at a given moment. [sentence as heard] The situation is more complex in this city, which already has very complex and diverse means and resources the revolution has to inform, report, analyse, criticize, educate, and develop awareness. Now the situation is more complex.

Of course we did not find all the solutions during the plenary meeting or at this congress, but we have gained awareness. I am sure we are going to resolve these problems. It may take a great deal of time or not much time at all. I don't know when SUNSUN and PITIRRE, [names of two Cuban publications] will be published on time. I don't dare give an exact date. It is PITIRRE, right? It is not BIJIRITA? BIJIRITA? I believe PITIRRE was one of the comics of the capitalist days. Wasn't it something like that? Oh, it was during the initial years of the revolution! Then it was not a reminiscence from the past! That's good! Yes, there was a PITIRRE, there was a BIJIRITA.

All the problems that have been brought up here will be analyzed, and we will find solutions. I am sure of it. We will know how many students must register every year and how many we will need, and what requirements should be met. The requirements are no longer limited to the computer. Now there are tests and questionnaires. I don't exactly know what measures have been adopted for registration at journalism school.

We will eventually know how many specialized journalists we need and the ways, the broad ways, through which we will resolve this problem, the broad ways we mentioned yesterday. We can begin by polling the current 377 students to establish what they really want to do. We don't want to force anyone. That would be like trying to solve the problem overnight. That would not be the best solution.

We will also have the necessary resources. No one can promise that this will happen tomorrow. We have been making efforts. Efforts were already being made in favor of television and radio. After the plenary meeting we began trying to resolve the problem. Sooner or later we will resolve the problem. We will see what kind of problem graphic journalists have, the problems of photographers, the video problems of television. Don't let envy weaken us.

Let's not be bitter if some organization has somewhat more than what it really needs. I know about this. I have been asking around. We have to investigate to establish what everybody has and what they want to do with what they have. Some organizations have very sophisticated means. I have already explained to you the origin of this. I also explained to you that in my opinion the organizations need video equipment. Since the School of Medicine needs it, we have provided video sets for taking motion pictures to that school because they are used in the classrooms in explaining lessons. Heart surgeries have been filmed, and those films serve to prepare students and surgeons.

All university schools need video equipment and video cassettes. All university schools need this. All schools need it, even the schools that teach exact sciences. Teachers need it also. Not only the television sector needs this equipment.

The administration and other organizations need it, also. All this should be developed together. The public health sector has to acquire some filming equipment, and it has to produce films because films represent a tremendous audio-visual means for teaching and education.

Let no one be upset, although I can understand someone being bitter over somebody else having more than what he needs and using it poorly. There is a policy for studios, but we will give priority attention to the needs of the media, in this case of the television sector, and we will know about these needs. We should not forget that a motion picture and television school will be functioning in our country. Let's not forget that in December, on occasion of the motion picture and television festival that takes place every year, the International School of Motion Pictures and Television [Escuela Internacional de Cine y Television] will be inaugurated and begin classes with the students who have registered. That will help us a great deal. We must not believe we know all about motion pictures, although we have developed our motion pictures sector; we must not believe we know all about television, although we have advanced somewhat in that sector. In some areas and in some aspects we are behind. The best directors of Latin America will come to this motion picture and television school. The best motion picture and television productions from many places will be coming.

Of course, in the school we will have a number of Cuban students and also students from other countries. However, we will have contacts, the opportunity to receive lectures and materials and to learn technical matters because of we have somewhat isolated in this area as in many others. This school will be a vehicle for universal experience in the areas of movies and television. The school will have more students later, and we will be able to get a larger quota the day it has more capacity. Nevertheless, television schools have to be organized here, as well as courses like the ones mentioned this morning, which are already given.

The Cinematography and Television School will have very modern equipment, particularly for educational purposes. It will be up-to-date. We must be up-to-date to the extent possible, as in the case of medicine. I think we have to do this, and it is a lot less expensive in the case of television. Medical equipment is much more expensive.

The lithontriptic machine cost over 2 million [currency not specified]. The first magnetic nuclear resonance equipment that has been installed cost over 3 million [currency not specified]. All this equipment is much more expensive than television equipment. Any type of medical equipment, all those ultrasound devices used for cardiology tests and cardiovascular surgery, are tremendously expensive. Any one piece costs 1 million, 500,000, 1.5 million, or 2 million [currency not specified]. Our country, to the extent it can, by making an effort...[changes thought]. We must not lag behind in these means. However, do not worry. There is an institution here that has the best because it is new. It is only a few months old. A better one always follows. Of course, we cannot be like this every day. What we have to do is to stay up-to-date on what is available.

We can get the benefits of television through the cinematography and television schools. We can assure you that not a single activity will be overlooked; that no sector will be overlooked.

The national, provincial, and specialized organizations will not be forgotten. In sum, all the problems discussed in the plenum which we have been analyzing here will be analyzed and studied. No one will be forgotten. I hope that no one will be underestimated, that no area will be underestimated. One can see that the sports and cultural spheres are strong.

A comrade of the scientific area was complaining about the lack of [television] space. It must be said that the building of socialism requires a consistent and intense application of science and technology. This is elementary. It must be given the attention and the time it deserves, and if the public is not interested, we will arouse its interest. The other activities, the economic activity, the agriculture in general, and others will not be forgotten.

You have just elected a new UPEC [Union of Cuban Journalists] leadership. You have paid a warm tribute to Comrade Vera. In my opinion, it was a just, well-deserved, and exciting tribute. I saw that you reacted to the voting results with confidence and joy.

I know that you discussed the candidates, and there is no doubt that in the future all this must be presented in a more elaborate process of discussions and consultations.

UPEC's task is very great, despite the fact that a union that is much more specialized exists. Let's say that it is a specialized organization in the journalistic sector. The union is very large. It has many activities. One can see here that there are many papers. All those studies on the students, the number of students, the forecasts, the needs, and the number of students needed in the various specialized fields is a UPEC task. The attention paid to the improvement of journalists, and the development and situation of each one of them is a task of UPEC and of the party, also.

Of course, UPEC alone cannot solve these problems, but it must keep informing the party about this. It must get the party's help to implement this program. I can assure you that UPEC will have all possible cooperation from the party and the state. You have a good working program now. This is what was drafted in this congress. We will continue our work because we are not going to end it with this congress, nor will we spend 5 years only to stop the moment of this congress and the conclusions reached here. These conclusions must be taken to the plenum. The plenum keeps analyzing the progress of the program. The plenum must be expanded whenever possible as was done in May.

The plenum must start analyzing new problems and drafting new views resulting from practice and experience. The party will have its program in December. Therefore, revolutionary journalism will have two programs: its specific program and its broad program, which is the party's program involving the basic guidelines for economic, social, political, and ideological development.

We have tasks before us, and time will witness the fruits of our efforts. I repeat: No one has the right to become discouraged because there will be difficulties and the struggle will be long.

Still, no one can doubt the results we are going to attain at all levels, within the party, state, or mass organizations, or within society in general. There are already over half a million party militants, over half a million youths, a million youths, a million jointly. The party's and youths' task is to make each of those militants behave like communist militants like members of the Communist Party of Cuba. This party is a vanguard organization. Not all the Communists are in our party because there are millions of Communists in our country, that is, millions of men and women who have a communist attitude and conduct. The party is a vanguard organization. The party and youths must be an example.

The party will have to be more and more demanding of its militants, and youths must, too. They must demand that the militants be models or examples in everything. They should never forget that our goals are loftier, higher, and more ambitious than building socialism. Our goal is to build a much fairer society. Socialism builds communism. I hope -- more than hope, I am sure -- that in this endeavor, this struggle, this path, and long this path, the revolutionary media will be there at the vanguard together with our party. Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

AALAPSO DECLARATION REJECTS U.S. POLICY

PA282330 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] The Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization, Aalapso, issued a declaration in Havana stressing that the United States is trampling on Grenada's independence and is trying to make that island a supporter of its aggressive policies in the Caribbean. The document was published on the third anniversary of the U.S. military invasion of Grenada.

PANAMANIAN YOUTH MEETING APPROVES DOCUMENTS, ENDS

PA290420 Havana International Service in Spanish 0001 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Interview with JUVENTUD REBELDE journalist Marina Menendez in Panama City by Ezequiel Perez Martin in Havana; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Perez] Well, dear listeners, once more we establish contact with Panama City, where a Cuban delegation has stayed for some weeks to participate in the second Cuban-Panamanian youth meeting. We talk again with Cuban journalist Marina Menendez, who will describe the end of this important activity. Marina, greetings; you may begin.

[Menendez] Well, as you aptly explained, the second Cuban-Panamanian youth meeting concluded yesterday with a ceremony at the university's assembly hall in this capital. A document was approved during the closing ceremony stating our youths' firm decision to continue strengthening the links of friendship and solidarity and friendship toward the rest of the continent.

Furthermore, the document advocated disarmament, peace, and just and equitable international commercial relations among all nations. It also condemns the Yankee policy against Central America, particularly against Nicaragua, and the Reagan administration's aid to the counterrevolutionary bands.

Another [words indistinct] closure ceremony included activities to commemorate Panamanian student's day, which was celebrated yesterday, and the 43d anniversary of the FEP, [Federation of Panamanian Students]. A wreath was placed at the tomb of Ascanio Arosemena, a martyr student of the 9 April [date as heard] exploit. We also met with students in this education center, which has a long-standing tradition of struggle among the student centers in Panama City, and from which many martyrs of the people's liberation struggle have come. That is all, Ezequiel.

[Martin] Thank you, Marina, on behalf of Radio Havana's listeners.

'CRUEL' SALVADORAN ARMY REJECTS FMLN-FDR TRUCE

PA290139 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] News reports from El Salvador point out that war activities have continued in several areas of Chalatenango and Usulutan Departments. For someone who is not well informed, it may seem cruel that a war has continued in a nation whose inhabitants are facing the tragic situation of having lost their homes and loved ones due to a natural catastrophe.

However, the fact is that the Salvadoran Army has preferred to continue harrassing the guerrillas instead of dedicating its economic resources, personnel, and experience to the humanitarian task of solving the problems of the victims of the recent earthquakes that hit the country.

It must be reiterated that immediately after the earthquakes, the FMLN-FDR proposed a truce to Salvadoran authorities because of the terrible situation most of the population was experiencing. The Salvadoran Army categorically refused to accept the truce, a stance that had the unconditional support of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who until only a few months ago spoke of a dialogue and political solutions.

The deviation of international aid is another issue raised against the Salvadoran regime. One example is that while civilian hospitals lacked even the most essential supplies to help the wounded, President Jose Napoleon Duarte sent the first supplies received from abroad to the San Salvador military hospital. In the midst of this situation, FDR President Guillermo Ungo reiterated that the guerrillas are still willing to hold a dialogue to solve the conflict politically.

CABRISAS PRAISES IDEA OF REGIONAL COMMON MARKET

PY291153 Paris AFP in Spanish 2258 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Oct (AFP) -- Today in Montevideo the Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said that his country wishes to direct its foreign trade toward Latin America, especially that portion which is governed by the market economy. The Cuban minister made this statement at the headquarters of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) during a visit to Uruguay that he began this week.

Cabrisas recalled that his country has signed partial (commercial) agreements with Mexico and Argentina and that it is studying the possibility of signing others with Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay. The Cuban minister praised the commercial agreements signed this year by Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay to establish a common market, which, he said, he hopes in the future will extend throughout the Latin American fatherland.

Since he arrived in Montevideo, Cabrisas has met with Uruguayan Economy and finance Minster Ricardo Zerbino, with the president of the Bank of the Republic, Federico Slinger, and with other authorities of the industrial and commercial sector.

Signs Uruguayan Loan Agreement

FL291524 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias and Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas have held a cordial meeting in Montevideo during which they analyzed current bilateral diplomatic and trade ties. Cuba and Uruguay have signed a bilateral reciprocal concession line of credit valued at $5 million to promote bilateral exports. Several private Uruguayan enterprise leaders expressed their interest in facilitating a greater trade flux with Cuba and participating in Cuba's industrial fairs.

FRENCH, USSR SIGN SUPERTANKER PORT CONTRACTS

FL292202 Bridgetown CANA in English 1826 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Havana, Oct 29, CANA -- France and the Soviet Union will help Cuba construct a supertanker port in Matanzas Bay.

An announcement here said that three important contracts for the construction of the port were signed here recently by the Cuban, Soviet, and French firms that will participate in the project.

The port will be able to handle tankers with a displacement of more than 100,000 tons, and will supply the Nico Lopez Oil Refinery and a thermo-power plant east of Havana, as well as a refinery in Cienfuegos, via a network of oil pipes.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed and ready for operation by July 1988.

CDR CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN RED SUNDAY

FL291526 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] The Executive Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] have called on all CDR members in the country to actively participate in the work tasks programed for Red Sunday [2 November]. The measure supports the call made by the national CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] in tribute to the Socialist's great October revolution.

The CDR document says that in those locations where conditions do not allow for the mobilization of production tasks, CDR members should participate in microbrigade tasks related to the construction of family doctor offices or cleaning and sanitation.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN, URUGUAYANS

FL291617 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers has met in Havana with Georges Habbash, general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee. Rodriguez also met with Senator Reynaldo (Garganos), secretary general of the Uruguayan Socialist Party. During the meeting, they discussed topics of mutual interest as well as the current situation in Latin America.

RISQUET MEETS AFRICAN LEADERS, SOVIET DELEGATION

FL291752 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Oct 86

[Text] The Cuban delegation in Mozambique, presided over by Jorge Risquet Valdes, has met during the last few hours with the presidents of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and Burkina Faso, as well as a high-level Soviet representation.

During the meetings with the delegations, Risquet, member of the Politburo and secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, and the delegates agreed that the memory of the late president Samora Machel will be a banner for the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party and the people to reinforce unity and the struggle to eliminate the counterrevolutionary bands financed by Pretoria.

FRG PARLIAMENT DELEGATION BEGINS VISIT

FL300154 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 86

[Text] An FRG delegation headed by its parliament's vice president Heinz Westphal, has begun official activities in Havana. The visitors, who represent the four political parties that compose the Bundestag or German parliament, first placed a floral wreath at the foot of the monument to our national hero Jose Marti at the revolutionary square.

The German deputies responded to an invitiation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] made by Cuban deputies who visited the FRG last year.

The parliament members toured the Institute of Biotechnology, where they learned about its modern building and laboratories. They were accompanied by the institute's director Manuel de Jesus Limonta. They also began official talks with ANPP President Flavio Bravo Pardo. The characteristics of the Cuban electoral process were a priority subject of discussion as were international policy matters, especially those involving Latin America.